WORLD / A28

Israel, Palestinians vow to forge peace by end of 2008

BUSINESS / B1

Aboitiz group bags Ambuklao-Binga power facilities for $325M

NEWS / A2

Sandigan upholds Danding's 20% stake in SMC

ENTERTAINMENT / F6

De Niro wants father's paintings back; threatens to sue NY gallery

NEWS / A2

JDV decries pattern of political vendetta

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, November 29, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 354 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Erap flaunts 'carabao English' in visit with pet

AYOS PA RIN ANG COCONUT NI ERAP!

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIJA—For this successful practitioner of "carabao English," it was a fitting stopover

ERAP FLAUNTS/ A21

FVR on Gloria: RP has 'no better options'

By Niña Catherine Calleja
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—FORMER PRESIDENT Fidel V. Ramos expects President Macapagal-Arroyo to cling to power and survive until her second and final term expires in 2010 because the country has "no better options."

FVR/ A21

REM ZAMORA

2 EX-PRESIDENTS: IN THE HORNS OF A DILEMMA Erap's pet: Joseph Estrada visits the Carabao Center in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, which had been created by his pet Senate bill, also his one and only.

NO CHOICE: In two words, Fidel Ramos dismisses mounting calls for President Arroyo to quit. So, he says, his support for her is "so incidental." FVR photo ops after receiving an award from the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture at UP Los Baños.

NINA CATHERINE CALLEJA/SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

GMA brod in Transco bid

Jamby links Buboy Macapagal to Razon-Aboitiz group

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. JAMBY MADRIGAL yesterday said that a brother of President Macapagal-Arroyo has joined a group of powerful businessmen seeking to acquire the multibillion-dollar assets of National Transmission Corp. (Transco) in a bidding process that has been denounced.

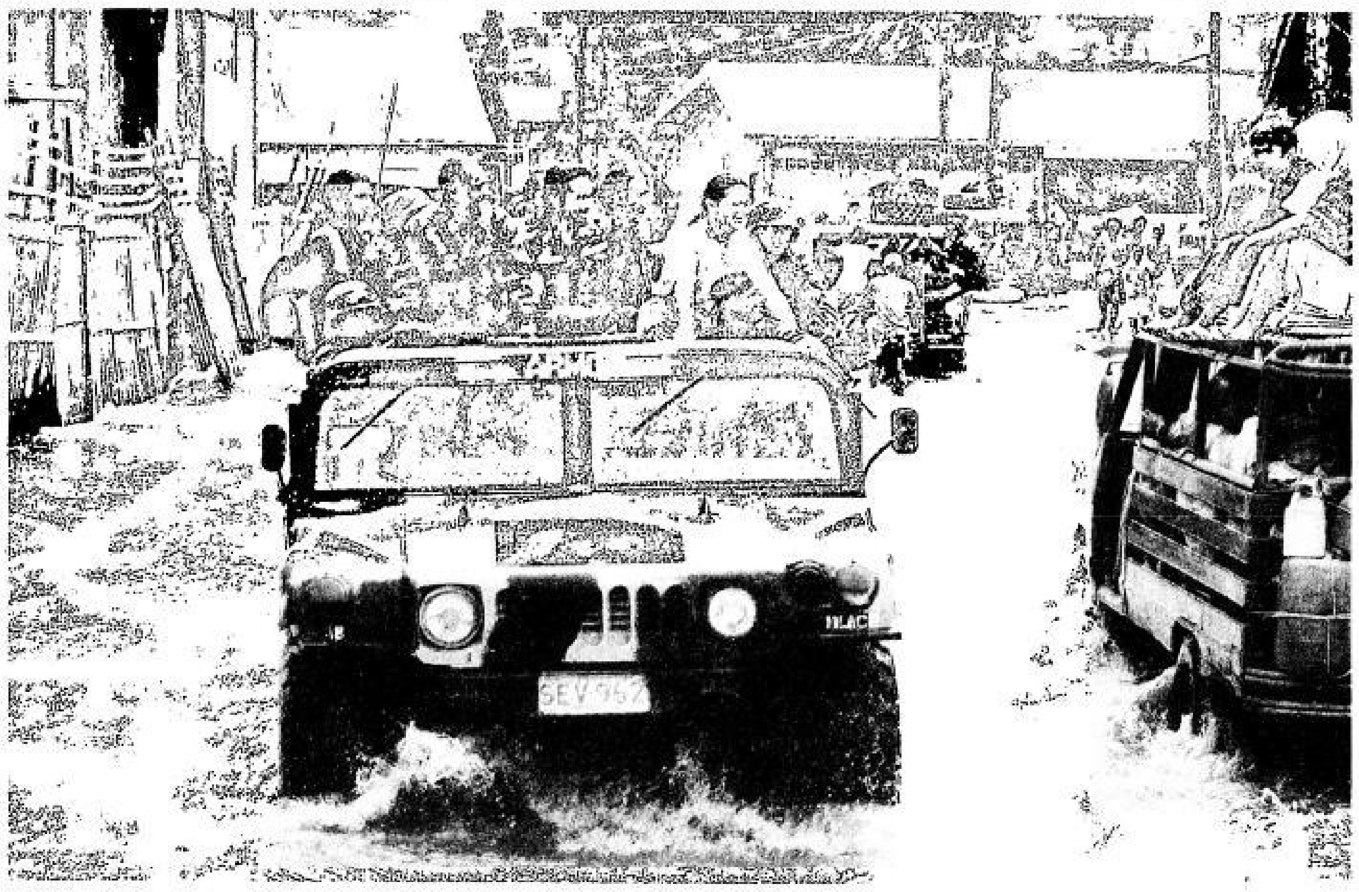
Madrigal said that Diosdado "Buboy" Macapagal Jr. and the Aboitiz group had discreet ties to the Monte Oro consortium believed to be led by Enrique Razon Jr., chair of International Container Services Inc. (ICTSI) and treasurer of the administration Team Unity in the May senatorial elections.

Because of the composition of Monte Oro, Madrigal told the INQUIRER that Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) headed by Jose Ibazeta, a boardroom ally of Razon, should disqualify the group from the Dec. 12 bidding.

Madrigal and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. have raised the issue of conflict of interest against Ibazeta.

PSALM is a public corporation created under the 2001 Electric Power Industry Act (Epira) to manage and supervise state-owned power assets

GMA BROD/ A4



FIT FOR A GENERAL M/Sgt. Pacquiao, wows 'em in Jolo where he tours military camps with Philippine Army CG, Gen. Alexander Yano (at left). Everybody's hero also toured camps in Basilan and Zamboanga. The flooding was caused by giant waves that mysteriously and simultaneously swamped the coastal villages of Jolo along with Zamboanga, Misamis Oriental, La Union and Pangasinan on Tuesday night. EDWIN BACASMAS

RP nanny won't be home for Christmas

By Cynthia D. Balana

SUSETTE FLORDAUZA WON'T be coming home to spend Christmas with her little daughter as she planned.

She was planning to fly home for a vacation in three weeks after working in London for three years as a nanny.

Flordauza died in a freak road accident on a London street on Monday, according to a report by the Daily Mail newspaper in the United Kingdom.

Flordauza, 33, died while three other pedestrians were injured when a wayward sports car mounted the pavement on King's Road and plowed into them.

The Daily Mail report said Flordauza was crushed against the wall of a building by a

RP NANNY/ A13

UN: World has only 10 years to fix climate

BRASILIA, BRAZIL—THE WORLD HAS less than 10 years to stop global warming, or climate change will cause irreversible ecological catastrophes as well as large-scale human and economic setbacks, according to a new UN report.

The United Nation's annual Human Development Report, presented in Brasilia on Tuesday, issued one of the strongest warnings yet on the lasting impact of climate change on living standards.

While citing the need for collective action, the report said rich nations would need to provide $86 billion a year by 2015 to "strengthen the capacity of vulnerable people" to cope with climate-related risks.

"The scenario is that our generation will

UN: WORLD/ A13

Noli: I'm ready to kneel to save Marilou's life

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE Castro yesterday said he would not hesitate to kneel before the emir of Kuwait just to spare the life of Filipino domestic helper Marilou Ranario whose death sentence was upheld by Kuwait's Supreme Court on Tuesday.

De Castro disclosed that the government had sought the assistance of the Vatican and the European Community to "touch the heart" of Sheik Sabah al Ahmed al Sabah to pardon Ranario.

President Macapagal-Arroyo

NOLI/ A11

Aklan cops nab suspect in radioman's slay 6 yrs ago

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—POLICE ARRESTED on Tuesday one of two suspects in the 2001 murder of Aklan broadcaster Rolando Ureta, but have yet to solve the killing of another, Herson "Boy" Hinolan in 2004.

Senior Supt. Benigno Durana Jr., Aklan police director, said Amador Raz was taken in front of the municipal hall of Numan-

AKLAN COPS/ A10

Solons want inquiry, heads of 3 gov't execs

By Christian V. Esguerra, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Norman Bordadora

MILITANT PARTY-LIST LAWMAKERS yesterday demanded the heads of three top government officials in the wake of the release of a UN rights expert's final report that the military was behind the spate of extrajudicial killings.

Other militant groups like Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) hailed the report as it "clearly proved" that extrajudicial killings were "a national policy" of the Arroyo administration, the AFP and agencies such as the Inter-Agency Legal Action Group (IALAG), said Renato Reyes Jr., Bayan secretary general.

Sen. Loren Legarda called for a formal inquiry, saying the Alston report was "troubling" because it practically said the killings were state-sanctioned.

"The claim that there is a systematic execution of activists, trade unionists, land reform advocates and other similarly oriented individuals calls for a full-blown investi-

SOLONS/ A10

GMA forms another task force on political killings

By Michael Lim Ubac and Alcuin Papa

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has created a high-level "task force against political violence" to address extrajudicial executions and other political killings.

The President assigned Justice Undersecretary Ric Blancaflor to head the task force that will handle all cases involving killings, including the ones being handled or monitored by the Philippine National Police's Task Force Usig and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

The PNP's Usig had specifically been formed to look into the extrajudicial executions of journalists and leftist activists.

"With the recent incidents of violence in the country, political violence has become a fundamental moral and governance challenge," Ms Arroyo said in Administrative Order No. 211, which created the new task force. The AO was read by Ermita in a televised press conference.

According to the AO dated Nov. 26, Ms Arroyo has armed the task force with the requisite powers and funding to stem the tide of killings of leftist activists and all other cases related to "political violence," Ermita said.

GMA FORMS/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered light rains. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

4 9 5 | 2 0 9

MEGALOTTO 6/45

13 15 19 26 28 37

₱33,094,182.60

Danding wins case for SMC stake

Sandigan junks gov't claim over 20% of food conglomerate

By TJ Burgonio

IN A BLOW TO THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO recover the coconut levy funds, the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court yesterday junked a civil case seeking to recover a block of San Miguel Corp. shares held by controversial businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.

Associate Justice Diosdado M. Peralta dismissed the third amended complaint in Civil Case No. 0033-F, seeking to recover 16,276,879 SMC shares under the names of 44 Cojuangco-owned companies, saying the Presidential Commission on Good Government failed to present sufficient evidence.

The court was "constrained to dismiss" the case because of the plaintiff's failure to prove its case against Cojuangco and the other defendants by "preponderance of evidence," Peralta said.

"The court finds its evidence insufficient to prove that the source of funds used to purchase SMC shares indeed came from coconut levy funds," Peralta of the First Division said in his decision.

The shares represent 20 percent of the outstanding capital stock of SMC and formed part of the 47 percent SMC shares that the PCGG sequestered in 1986, alleging that they were illegally acquired by Cojuangco using coconut levy funds.

The other 27 percent block of SMC shares—or 33 million shares purchased through 14 holding companies owned by six Coconut Industry Investment Fund companies—was declared by the anti-graft court in 2004 as owned by the government in trust for the country's coconut farmers. The shares were being held and administered by the United Coconut Planters Bank.

The PCGG suit, first brought in 1987, alleged that Cojuangco and his associates had "embarked on a systematic plan" to buy out the majority of SMC's outstanding shares of stocks with the use of the coconut levy funds.

The funds came from a forced tax imposed on coconut farmers by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the 1970s. Marcos appointed Cojuangco to administer the levy.

The other individual respondents were Marcos, former First Lady Imelda Marcos, Senators Edgardo Angara and Juan Ponce Enrile, Jose C. Concepcion, Avelino V. Cruz, Eduardo U. Escueta, Paraja G. Hayudini, Teodoro D. Regala, Danilo Ursua and Rogelio A. Vinluan.

The other respondents were 71 corporations.

The original complaint, Civil Case 0033, was filed July 31, 1987. Subsequent amendments were made to the original complaint.

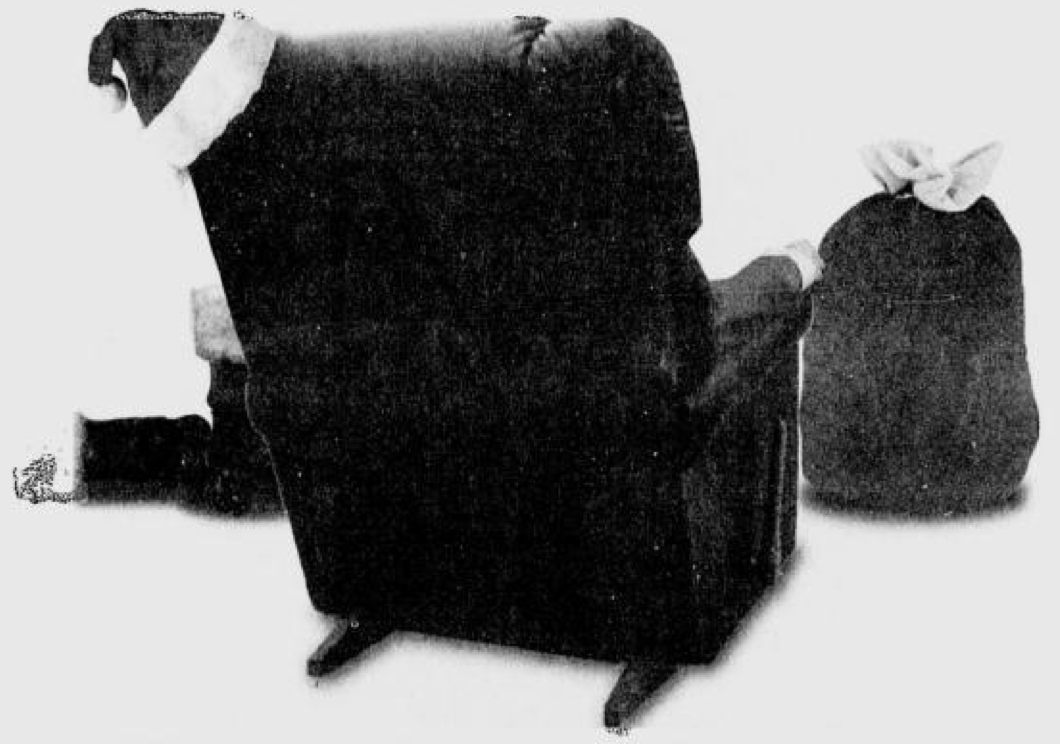
On May 19,1995, the PCGG filed the third amended complaint concerning the acquisition of SMC shares of stock, among other subdivided complaints. This was docketed as Civil Case 0033-F.

Before the latest decision, the Supreme Court twice called the anti-graft court's attention on the need to resolve with dispatch the Civil Case 0033 that had been pending for 20 years.

In his ruling, Peralta said the anti-graft court disagreed with the PCGG position that some laws would be sufficient to prove that the acquisition of SMC shares was illegal.

The PCGG used Presidential Decrees 961, 755 and 1468—the laws that created the coco levy—to argue that the shares were public and should be reconveyed to the government, the same argument it used in the case to recover the CIIF-owned block of SMC shares.

The court rejected the argument, saying they only had reference to the CIIF block of shares which the court had already settled.



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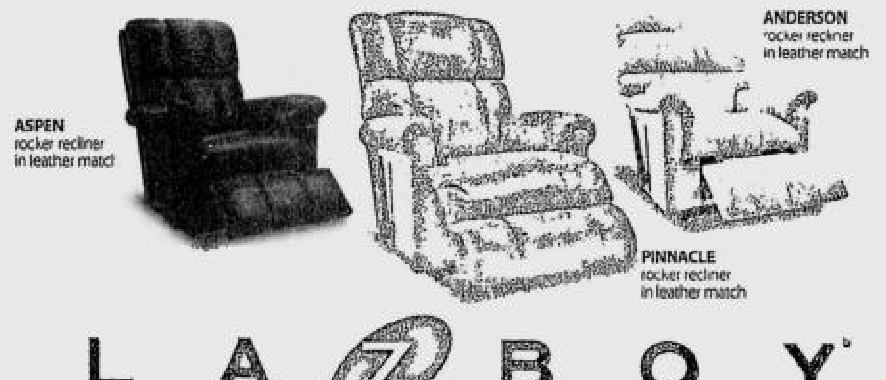

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WHAT'S INSIDE

BIG WAVES RAISE typhoon deaths to 19 /A6

PACQUIAO TELLS soldiers: Knock 'em out /A8

BEHEST LOANS REVIVAL

De Venecia cries 'political vendetta'

HOUSE SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA YESterday said the revival of the 20-year-old behest loan case against him was "clearly a political vendetta" not unrelated to other pending charges against him.

De Venecia said there was a "pattern" to the cases that have been hurled his way since his son and namesake attempted to blow the whistle on supposed irregularities in $329-million national broadband network project awarded to the China-based ZTE Corp.

Jose "Joey" de Venecia III tried to directly implicate President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband in the alleged irregularities, which severely strained the alliance between the President and the Speaker, who both head the ruling Lakas-CMD.

De Venecia refused to name the people he suspected of supposedly orchestrating the plot against him.

They're all over

"I don't know. Ask yourself. Why is there an ethics case against me? Why is there an Ombudsman case against me? They're all over. There is a pattern," he said.

Lawyer Roel Pulido has filed a complaint against De Venecia before the House ethics committee over the granting of congressional franchises to a communications company owned by Joey de Venecia during the incumbency of his father in 1995 and 1996.

Pulido, who filed a separate but similar case before the Ombudsman, was also behind the failed impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo. De Venecia said the impeachment complaint contained more issues against him than against the President.

Earlier this week, the Presidential Commission on Good Government recommended to the Office of the Solicitor General the revival of a civil case in the Sandiganbayan against De Venecia for failure to pay $120 million worth of "behest" loans taken out 20 years ago.

The case involves Landoil Corp., a company that pioneered the export of Filipino manpower and construction projects in the Middle East, which De Venecia founded in the 1970s and headed until 1985.

Marcos ties

To finance its huge overseas operations, the company borrowed enormous amounts from foreign banks which required a government guarantee, which it got from the state-owned Philguarantee Corp.

According to a civil case (No. 0020) that the PCGG filed against De Venecia in 1987, the Speaker allegedly took "undue advantage" of his ties with the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos to secure the behest loans and the government guarantee.

It said that as a result of "gross mismanagement and wanton diversion of the loans," Landoil defaulted on the loan payments, leaving Philguarantee to use taxpayers' money to make good on its guarantee.

In 1988, Landoil entered into a compromise agreement with the PCGG that called for the dismissal of the case against De Venecia but which provided that if Landoil failed to comply fully with the terms of the agreement, the case against De Venecia and his partners would be reinstated.

The deed of assignment in the compromise agreement stated that De Venecia, who was identified as a Marcos crony, agreed to transfer to the PCGG about 45 percent of the company shares of stock that had been identified as belonging to Marcos, and the entire proceeds of the company's claims for $700 million against its foreign insurer against the risk of non-payment of its contracts for various projects in the Middle East.

According to the PCGG, no shares or proceeds were transferred to the PCGG so that in 2002, it took steps to rescind the agreement, refile the case against Landoil and reinstate De Venecia as a defendant in Civil Case 0020.

Reviving the case

PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio the other day confirmed that there had been talk of reviving the case against De Venecia in 2002 during the term of the late PCGG chair Haydee Yorac.

He said the case was straightforward, "the Speaker and his associates failed to pay their obligations to the government."

De Venecia yesterday said it was not he but his successor at Landoil, Ambrosio Collado, who had signed a compromise agreement with the PCGG.

He said the agreement came about four years after he stepped down as the company's president.

"There is nothing to the case. I had nothing to do with the compromise agreement," he said.

De Venecia claimed the case had been dismissed by the PCGG, Ombudsman, Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court in 1995. He said the main reason was because Landoil was essentially "a victim of two wars."

The operations of the company were saddled first, by the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s and later, by the Gulf War in 1990, he claimed.

As a result, he said Landoil had "receivables" amounting to $169 million. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Lomibao picked RP's 'Jack Bauer'

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG HAS FORMED A unit to fight terrorism, in the mold of "CTU" of the popular US television series "24," and has tasked former national police chief Arturo Lomibao to lead it.

Effective last Tuesday, Lomibao became the chief of the National Counter Terrorism Action Group (Nactag), Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

"If you're watching the show "24," its like the CTU (Counter Terrorism Unit) of Jack Bauer," Ermita said in reference to the show starring American actor Kiefer Sutherland.

The Nactag, he said, will be a permanent unit under the Anti-Terrorism Council which Ermita chairs.

Lomibao's designation was covered by a resolution of the ATC, he said.

The executive secretary said that the unit was formed because President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted an "active unit under the ATC that will address terrorism in the country."

But with Lomibao's appointment as head of Nactag, this meant that Reynaldo Berroya would get to keep his job as head of the Land Transportation Office.

Ermita acknowledged that there was an earlier announcement that the LTO chief position will be Lomibao's "projected assignment."

But he said no final decision was made on this as he pointed out that now Lomibao gets to head Nactag instead.

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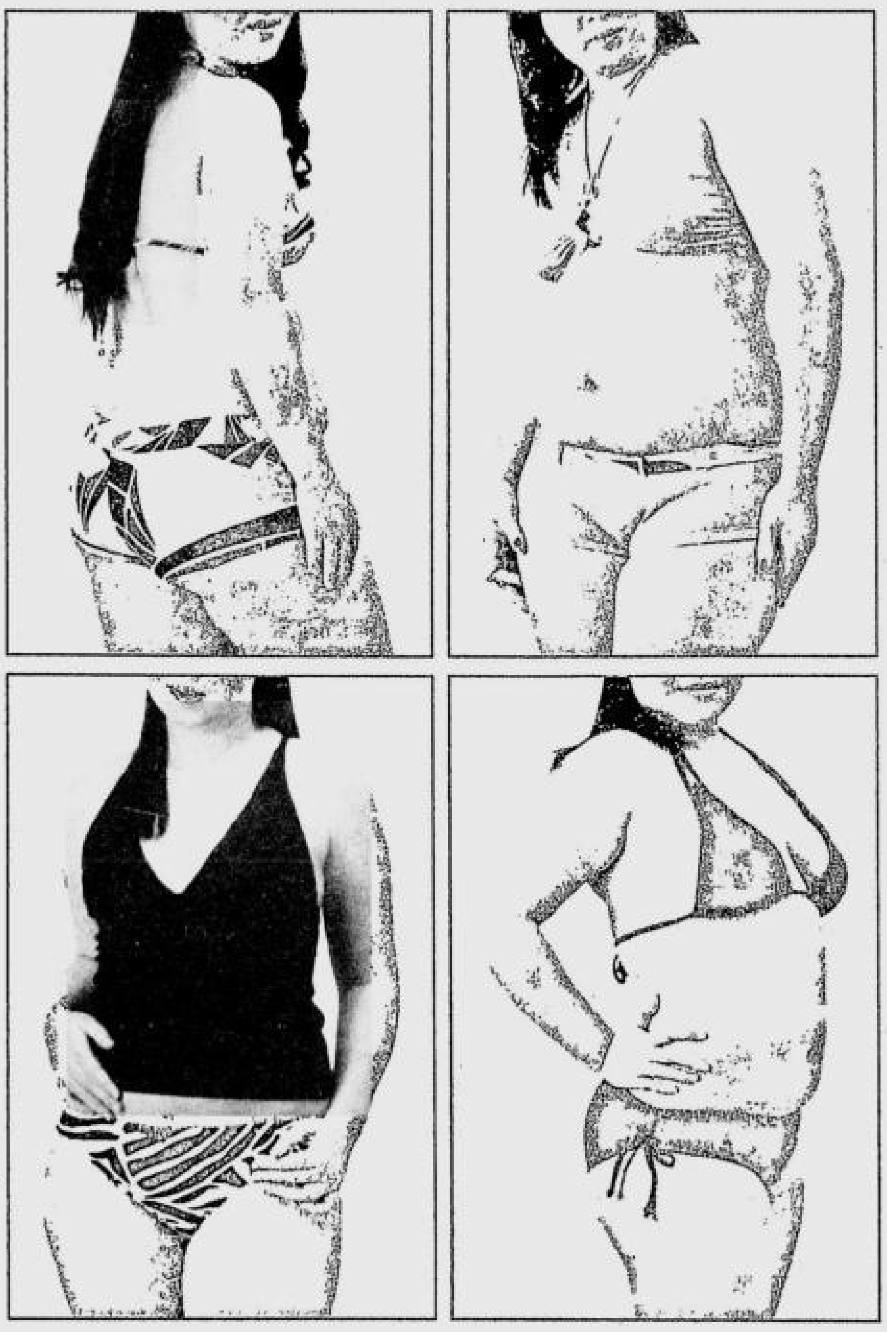

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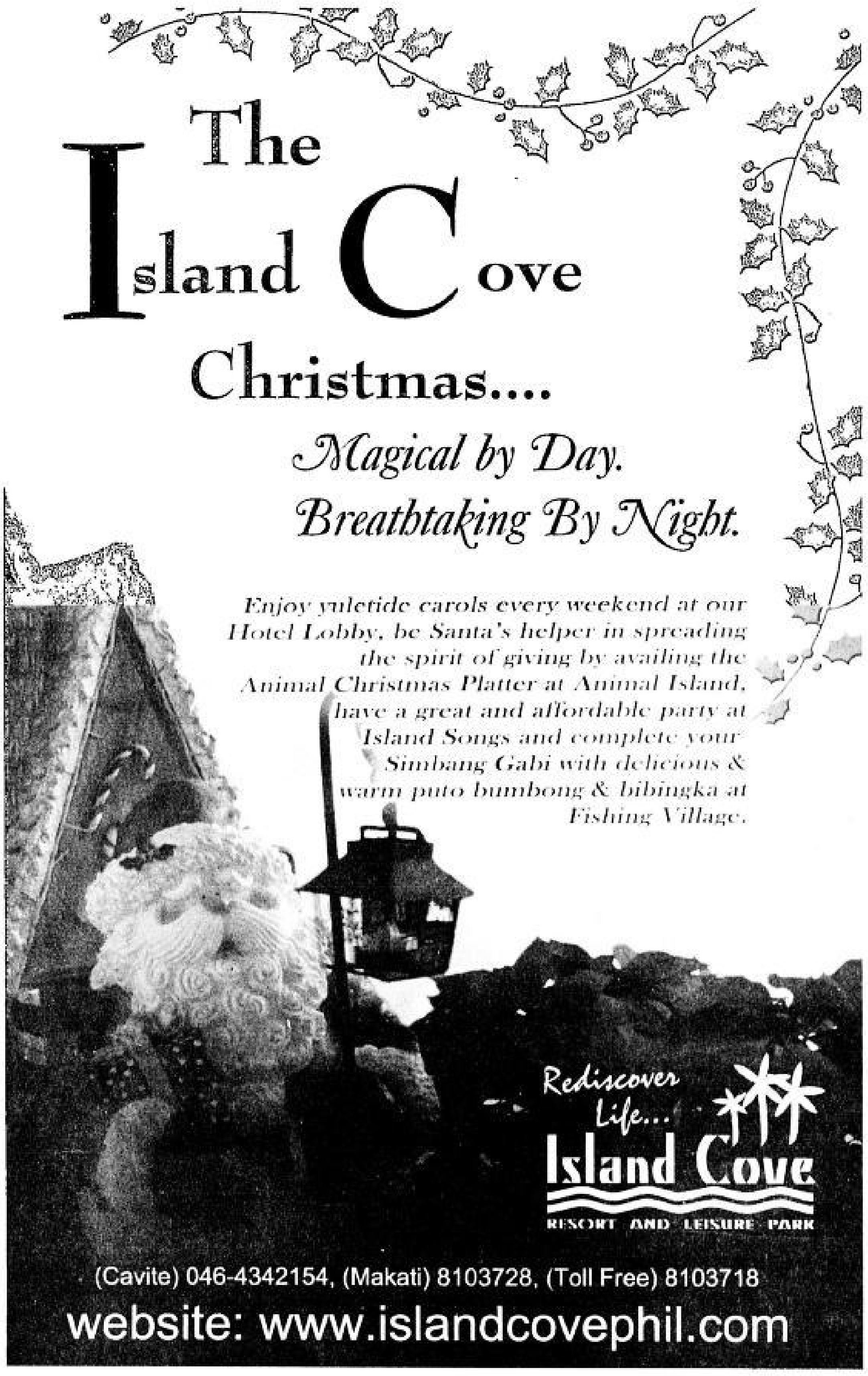
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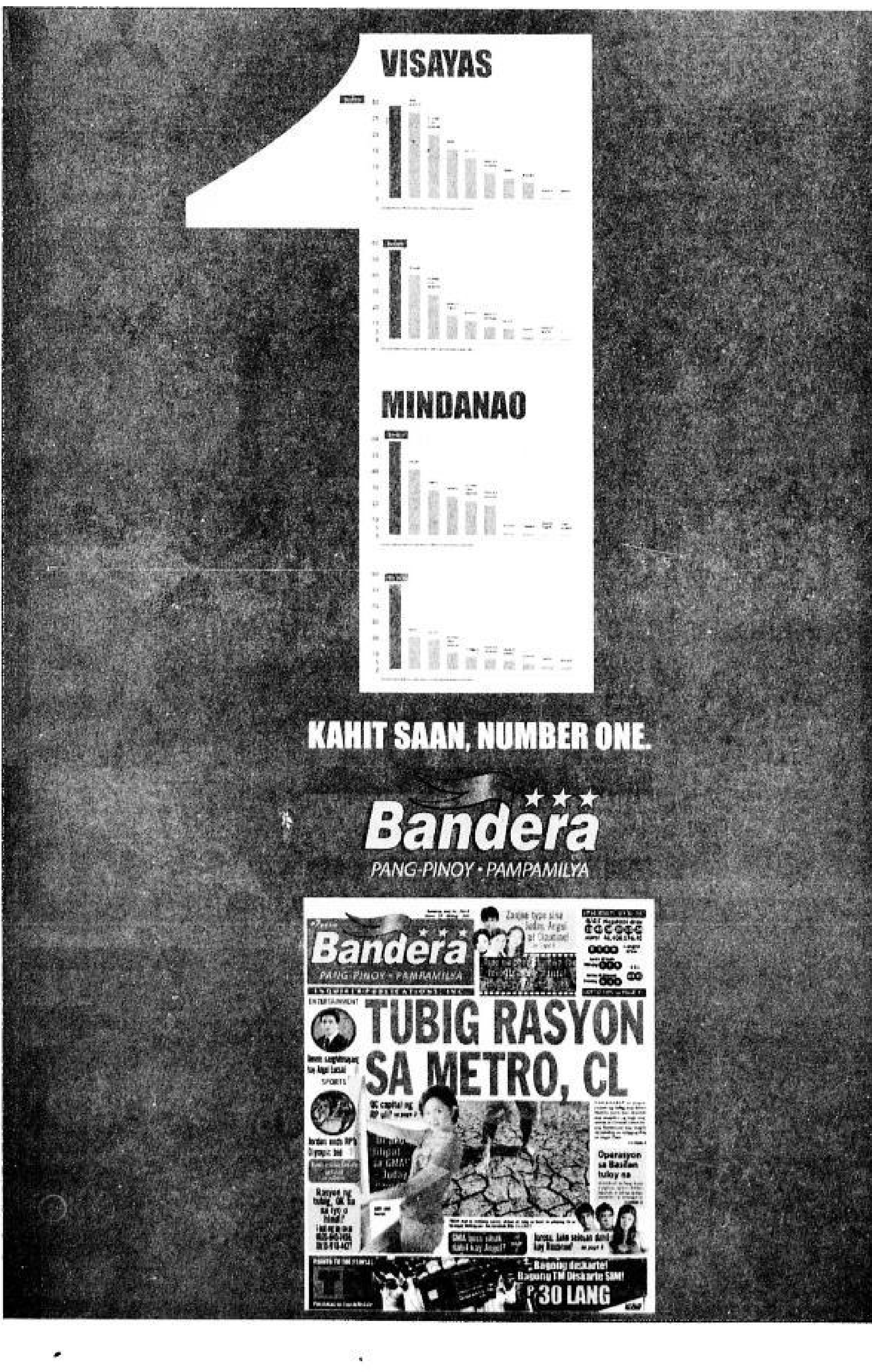

GMA brod in Transco bid

From page A1

and facilities. Epira mandates full deregulation of the power industry with Transco described as its "crown jewel."

Four groups, including Monte Oro and its Chinese partner State Grid Corp., have been prequalified to join the Dec. 12 bidding.

The La Costa group of nickel miner Salvador Zamora II and former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo has filed a court case after it was disqualified, alleging "foul play" in the privatization process.

La Costa said it was prepared to offer a bid of up to $6 billion for the Transco assets—double the lone offer in a failed February auction—and that it was prepared to develop both its power transmission lines and its optic fiber potential for broadband digital services.

Razon partner

On Tuesday, Walter Brown, chair and president of Monte Oro Grid Resources Corp., dismissed the Madrigal-Pimentel charge, saying that Razon only has a 2-percent share in the consortium and that Razon intends to divest if it wins the Dec. 12 bidding.

Madrigal said that while Brown, a miner and real estate developer, was the face of the consortium, "the grapevine says Mr. Brown represents a number of businessmen in the group, including investment banker and former Finance Undersecretary Buboy Macapagal of ATR Kim Eng."

She noted that Brown was a business partner of Razon as both are directors of International Exchange Bank, which recently merged with the Aboitiz-controlled Union Bank of the Philippines.

Madrigal said Monte Oro had a conflict of interest not only in the case of Razon but also in the case of the Aboitiz group.

"If Monte Oro wins, the transmission and distribution of energy resources will be monopolized by one group. The Aboitiz group is already heavily involved in power distribution and under Epira, no company should have interest in both distribution and transmission of power," Madrigal said.

Aboitiz connection

The senator noted that the Aboitizes control five distribution utilities and five power generation plants spread all over the country.

Madrigal, herself an old-rich scion, noted that Razon and the Aboitizes were not only tied by business interest but also family. She said Razon's sister, Liza, was married to Stephen Aboitiz Paradis, a scion of the Cebu-based family.

Paradis is a director not only of ICTSI (since 1998) but also a key officer in his family's holding firm, Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., and its various interests in banking, property, shipping, food and power.

Just like Paradis, PSALM's Ibazeta has

MADRIGAL: Business and family ties

long and deep relations with Razon which makes him unqualified to serve as an auctioneer for Transco, Madrigal said.

But Ibazeta insisted that he was not compelled to resign his board seat at Razon's companies because PSALM's jurisdiction only covers power and not port operations.

Collegial body

Ibazeta said that PSALM was a collegial body and that he was in no position to make unilateral decisions, particularly in auctions.

"I can even have my brother bid, but if you look at the process, it's very transparent. It's who bids the highest who wins. This doesn't work like magic," he told reporters yesterday. "Everyone sees the rules and agrees on the rules."

Ibazeta said that the issue of conflict of interest was mainly a matter of perception.

"We should look at the bigger picture. I'm not the decision maker here, I'm just part of the (PSALM) board," he said.

Nice try

Senators, however, scoffed at Ibazeta's efforts to wiggle out of his bind.

"Nice try but not good enough," Pimentel said.

"We are talking here of his being an ICTSI official where Razon is the owner. Razon is bidding for Transco over which Ibazeta has a say and if he can't see that as a questionable proposition, I think he should use new eyeglasses," the senator said.

According to Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the moment an individual is appointed in government, he has to divest himself of any connection to a private entity to avoid possible conflict of interest.

"His position might be compromised as what happened in this case. More importantly, it could result in the violation of the code of ethical standards and antigraft and corrupt practices act," Lacson said. ***With a report from Abigail L. Ho***

Corrections

IN THE NOV. 26 ISSUE, a story on Page A2—"Puno bats for 'healing' justice"—inadvertently omitted the name of one of the directors of five film documentaries on the state of Philippine jails, which were launched on Nov. 23. The filmmaker's name is Roberto Eugenio Cadiz.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 28 ISSUE, a headline and article on Page A25 of the Metro section—"Basilan mayor included in murder raps"—misstated that the incumbent Basilan mayor was charged with murder for alleged involvement in the Batasan bombing. One of the front-page windows contained the same mistake. Also charged with murder and frustrated murder was Hajarun Jamiri, a former mayor of Tuburan town in Basilan. The current Tuburan mayor is Durie Kallahal.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, November 29, 2007
34th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Dn 6:12-28
Gospel: Luke 21:20-28

Jesus said to his disciples, "When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then you must know that the time has come when it will be reduced to a wasteland. Then, if you are in Judea, flee to the mountains; if you are in the city, leave it; and let those who are in the fields not return to the city.

"For these will be the days of its punishment and all that was announced in the Scripture will be fulfilled. How hard will it be for pregnant women and for mothers with babies at the breastl For a great calamity will come upon the land, and divine justice upon this people. They will be put to death by the sword or taken as slaves to other nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled upon by the pagans until the time of the pagans is fulfilled.

"Then there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth anguish of perplexed nations when they hear the roaring of the sea and its waves. People will faint with fear at the mere thought of what is to come upon the world, for the forces of the universe will be shaken. And at this time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

"Now, when you see the first events, stand erect and lift up your heads, for your deliverance is drawing near."

Commentary

Daniel is caught praying and is cast into the lions' den, though the king is partial to him. In the morning he goes to see if Daniel's God has saved him and Daniel is alive. The king in his brutality casts the men who accused him, their wives and children into the den to be torn apart and eaten and declares that the God of Daniel is to be reverenced and served. He has caught a sense of the power of God, but certainly nothing of his forgiveness and mercy and enduring faithfulness to his people.

Jesus warns that the destruction of the city and temple will come (he could read the signs of the times in the hostilities between Rome's iron hand and those who would revolt). There will be distress in the land and no one will be spared. Luke's gospel was written more than 25 years after the actual destruction that has severed the believers in Jesus from the Jewish community and put them at peril to both Rome and the different Jewish factions. But Jesus speaks not just of persecutions to come, but of the end times when all will know who is God-the God of Jesus the crucified Son of Man who holds both justice and mercy in his hand. This is our God.

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Drug firms short-sighted, says NGO

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FOREIGN DRUG FIRMS ARE CLOSING THE door on opportunities in developing-country markets with their "short-sighted" efforts to protect their profitability and limit consumer access to their products, according to a report from Oxfam International.

The pharmaceutical industry is "denying medicines to millions of poor people and undermining its own future because companies refuse to shift to responsible business practice in developing country such as the Philippines," said the report, titled "Investing for Life," by the UK-based nongovernment organization.

More than 85 percent of consumers worldwide are underserved or have no access to the medicines produced by the industry, said Jeremy Hobbs, the Oxfam executive director.

Bad business

"The industry must recognize that charging high prices, quashing generic competition, developing medicines only for those rich enough to pay and fighting for harsher patent laws is an ineffective business strategy for new markets, as much as it is a moral outrage," he said.

The Oxfam report cited three factors that were keeping the drug firms from providing access to medicine by poor people.

First, the companies regard the issue of access to medicines as merely a problem of reputation, which results in patchy, adhoc approaches that fail to deliver sustainable solutions.

Second, the industry's responses to flagging financial performance, such as price increases and aggressive defense of patents, undermine efforts to address diseases in the developing countries.

A third factor, according to Oxfam, is that the industry "fails to regard access to medicines as a fundamental human right enshrined in international law" that firms have the responsibility to fulfill.

'Loss of faith'

The study, which covered 12 pharmaceutical giants, also found that the "loss of faith in the pharmaceutical industry has cost investors $1 trillion" worldwide.

The firms surveyed include Abbott, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi-Aventis and Wyeth—all transnationals operating in the Philippines.

Oxfam also cited the actions of the Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association of the Philippines, which groups foreign drug firms, to block the passage of the Cheaper Medicines Bill as among the short-sighted ways of the industry.

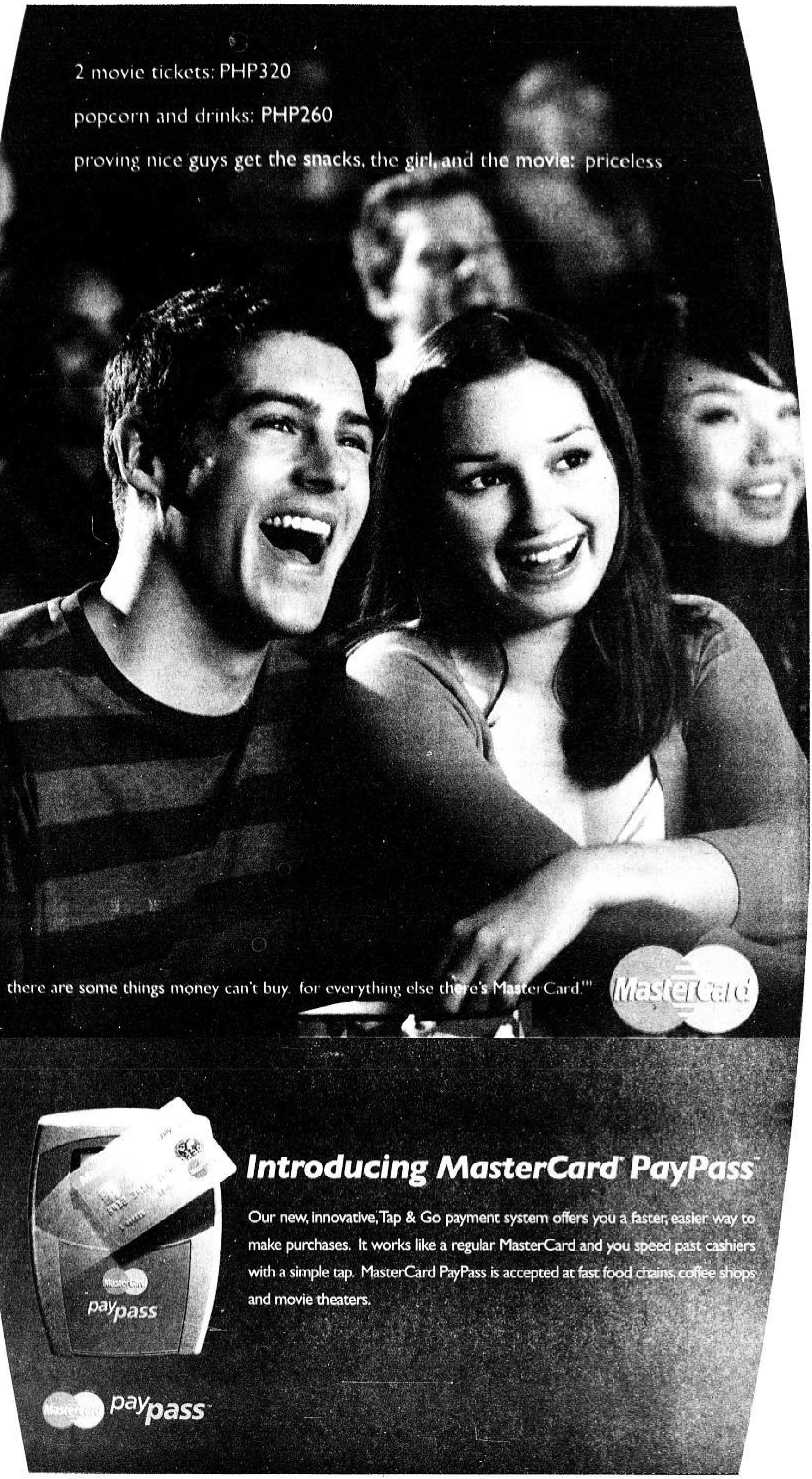
The bill, which is pending approval in Congress, seeks flexible patent protection on drugs and medicines while allowing the entry of bioequivalent but more affordable life-saving medicines.

Shalimar Vitan, the local coordinator of Oxfam's Access to Medicines campaign, cited the industry's active lobbying for stricter patent rules and legal challenges to government use of public health safeguards as affecting the potential of pharmaceutical companies to contribute in helping poor people in need of medicines.

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, which has 22 members engaged in pharmaceuticals, said last week that what it advocated was for government to implement measures that would improve access to medicines rather than bring prices down.

Henry Schumacher, the ECCP executive vice president, said the drug firms were proposing this as the alternative to the passage of the Cheaper Medicines Bill, of which they "are not a friend."

"We do not agree that what we need is cheaper medicines, but we believe there should be more access for the poor to these products as well as medical services," Schumacher said.



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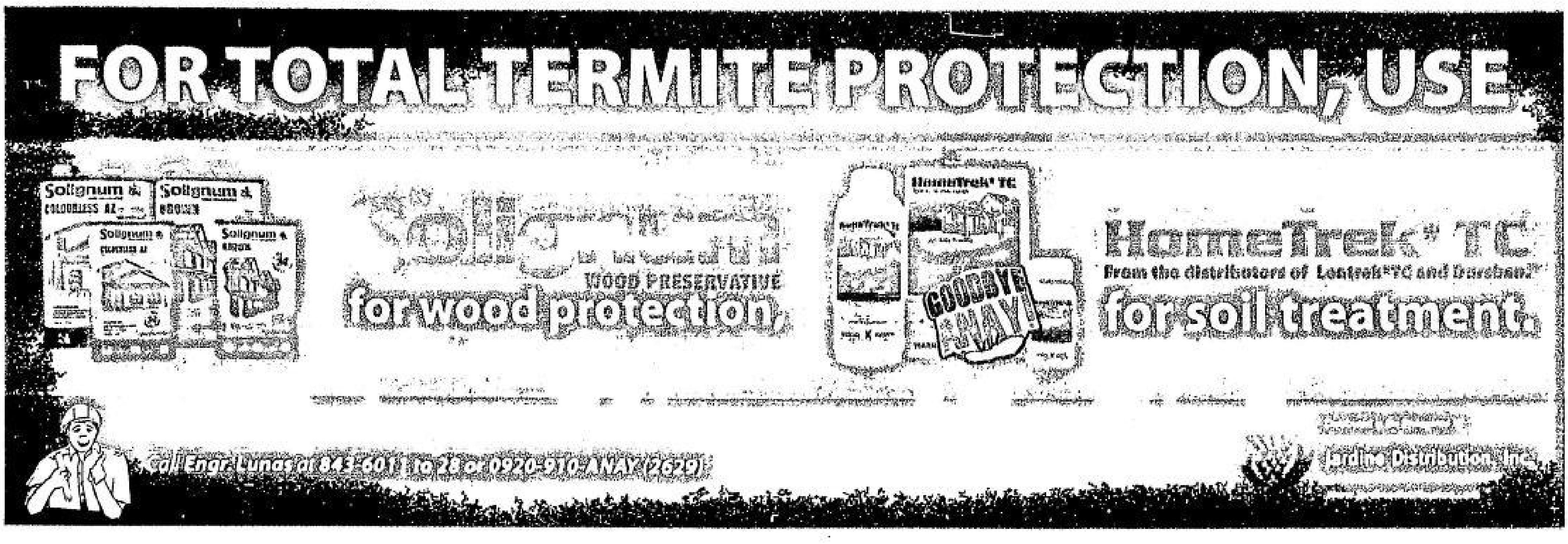

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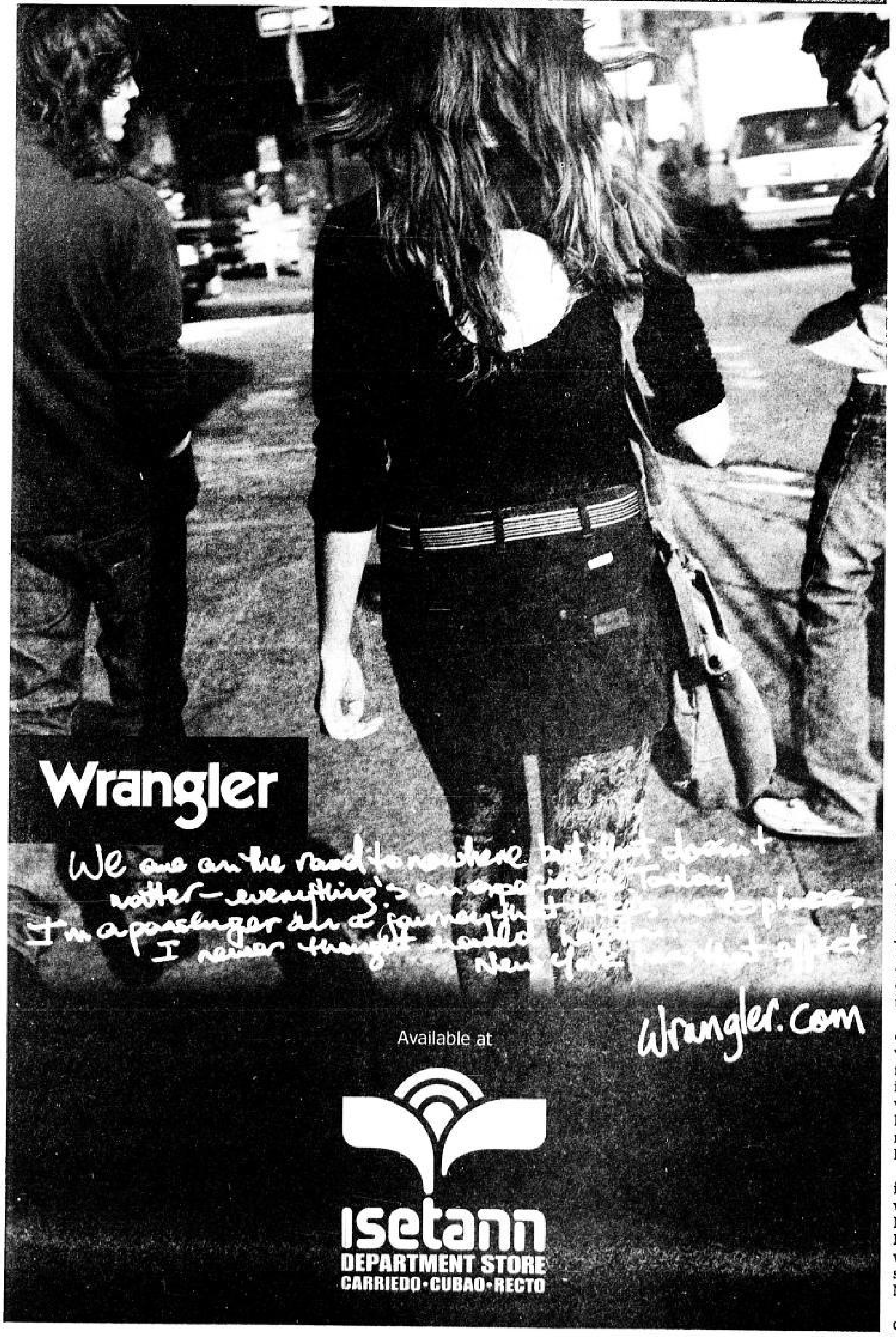

Big waves raise typhoon deaths to 19

By TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa

TYPHOON "MINA" YESTERDAY dissipated while typhoon "Lando" moved farther away from the country, but not before spawning large waves in the western coasts of Luzon and Mindanao and leaving a death toll of 19.

The big waves that buffeted coastal villages in Pangasinan, the Zamboanga peninsula, Northern Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on Tuesday night were spawned by storm-induced winds, not the 5.4 magnitude earthquake that shook Northern Luzon earlier on Tuesday, the weather bureau said.

"We should have improved weather by tomorrow and up to four days," said senior weather specialist Robert Sawi of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

The bureau has, however, warned fishermen and sailors of big waves, particularly in the western coast of Northern Luzon because of the prevailing northeast monsoon.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said yesterday 19 people have been confirmed dead while eight others were missing because of Mina, which ripped through the country earlier this week, weakened to a tropical depression and yesterday had dissipated over the Philippine Sea.

Tropical depression

Typhoon Lando, which also weakened to a tropical depression and killed 14 people last week, went west toward Vietnam and then made a dramatic U-turn over the South China Sea before returning to the Philippines.

Pagasa weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz said by Sunday, Mina and Lando would have exited and "we will have good weather conditions in most parts of the country."

He said a low-pressure area swirling east of the country is not likely to enter the Philippines.

The NDCC said that of Mina's fatalities—from drownings, electrocution and landslides—seven came from Camarines Sur, one from Camarines Norte, three from Palawan, two from Apayao, two from Kalinga, three from Cagayan and one from Isabela province.

Included among the missing were Philippine Air Force pilots, Captains Bonifacio Soriano and Gavino Mercado, who were flying a PAF S-211 trainer jet over the Kalayaan islands in Palawan when the aircraft went missing last Monday.

The NDCC said big waves threatened coastal barangays in Jolo, Sulu, Pangasinan, La Union, Misamis Oriental and Zamboanga City.

In Jolo, Sulu, a 3-year-old boy was killed as strong waves hit two coastal villages on Tuesday night. The waves also destroyed at least 50 houses in the villages of Tulay and Busbus.

Yusop Isnani, village chair of Busbus, said a 3-year-old boy was killed when his house was washed away by the waves.

In Iligan City, residents fled their homes as huge waves hit and destroyed houses in coastal villages.

In Misamis Oriental, a storm surge inundated 53 barangays in 16 towns on Tuesday night, forcing 1,160 families to flee their homes. No casualties were reported.

Ten-foot-high waves struck coastal barangays at 7 p.m. Tuesday, leaving 800 homes damaged and destroying a 12-meter seawall in Naawan town.

Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno declared 16 towns on alert level as Pagasa warned that more big waves could be expected.

The Macalajar Bay in Misamis Oriental has been declared one of the storm surge-prone areas in Mindanao.

Surge of water

In Lingayen, Pangasinan, a surge of water from the Lingayen Gulf flooded homes in coastal areas, sending residents into a panic as tsunami rumors swept the province following an intensity 6 earthquake.

The provincial disaster coordinating council (PDCC) said 280 families were moved to evacuation centers here and in the towns of Binmaley, San Fabian, Labrador and Bolinao and Dagupan City.

Paterno Orduña, PDCC executive officer, said the water started to rise at 6 p.m. on Tuesday and subsided at about 5 a.m. yesterday.

Orduña said what worsened the situation were text messages circulating that warned of a tsunami following the quake whose epicenter was 86 km west of Lingayen.

Renato Solidum, Phivolcs director, explained to callers that the quake's magnitude was not enough to trigger a tsunami and that "if ever a tsunami occurs, it does so some 30 minutes to one hour after the earthquake."

Pagasa blamed the huge waves on the strong winds triggered by the weather disturbances and the northeast monsoon.

"The strong winds are associated with the surge of the northeast monsoon and the two storms," Cruz said.

Vicente Malano, OIC of Pagasa's field operations center, said the earthquake did not cause the waves which did not happen until 15 minutes after the earthquake. *With reports from Gabriel Cardinoza and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon and Richel Umel, Ed General, Charlie C. Señase and Ma. Celcilia Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao*

Spratlys claimants join hands in search/rescue

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—China, Vietnam and the Philippines—rival claimants for the Spratly islands—have joined hands in the search for two Filipino pilots and 47 fishermen who have gone missing over the past week in the contested waters off Palawan.

An America P-3 Orion reconnaissance aircraft that was at Clark Field because of recently-concluded joint military exercises, is also staying with the search, said Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino, commanding general of the Philippine Air Force.

The unified search, now on its third day, is sweeping the waters for pilots Capt. Gavino Mercado Jr. and Capt. Bonifacio L. Soriano III, who disappeared while responding to a distress signal from a fishing vessel last Nov. 26.

Also missing are 26 Filipino crew members of FB Vir Ana, which reportedly capsized in the area last Nov. 22; as well as 11 Vietnamese and 12 Chinese fishermen also reported missing about the same time.

Col. Jose Tony E. Villarete, 570th Composite Tactical Wing commander, said an additional Navy Islander plane was on its way to Pag-asa Island to join the search mission headed by Capt. George Ursabia of the Philippine Coast Guard.

Chinese and Vietnamese vessels, out searching for their own missing nationals, have offered to help look for the PAF pilots.

"What's nice is claimant countries of the Kalayaan group are cooperating for one purpose. I think it's a good sign for claimant countries in a predicament like this," said Tolentino, who was at the PAF base in Palawan yesterday. *Tarra Quismundo, with Geraldford Ticke, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

GRAND OLD PARTY

Senate President Manny Villar (center), president of the Nacionalista Party, celebrates with other stalwarts the 100th anniversary of the party at the Philippine International Convention Center. One of the highlights of last night's centennial celebration was the launching of the book on the party which has produced six Philippine presidents—Sergio Osmeña, Manuel Quezon, Jose Laurel, Ramon Magsaysay, Carlos P. Garcia and Ferdinand Marcos. JESS YUSON

Late Marcos brother cleared in graft case

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS UPHELD THE Ombudsman's dismissal of a graft case, arising from alleged behest loans, against the late brother of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, several officials of the Bagumbayan Corp., and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

In upholding the Ombudsman's dismissal of the case, the high court said the P86 million in loans obtained by Bagumbayan Corp. from the DBP were not shown to be behest, or grossly disadvantageous to the government.

A behest loan is one obtained at the strong, authoritative request of an influential government official.

The case against Bagumbayan Corp., its officials and the DBP was filed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the Presidential Ad Hoc Fact Finding Committee on Behest Loans.

The PCGG and the committee alleged that the loans were under-collateralized, and Bagumbayan undercapitalized when DBP granted the loans. The committee also said the approval of the loans was done with undue haste, and that the Bagumbayan chair, Pacifico Marcos, was the late dictator's brother.

5 respondents passed away

While the case was pending, five Bagumbayan and DBP officials who were named respondents passed away, including Pacifico. The others died while the case was ongoing were Bagumbayan's Tomas Aguirre and the DBP's Recio Garcia, Leonides Virata and J.V. de Ocampo.

The other respondents are Ofelia Castell, Placido Mapa Jr., Jose Tengco Jr., Rafael Sison, and former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

Desierto dismissed the case for lack of evidence, but the PCGG and the committee questioned his ruling before the Supreme Court.

The high court said the PCGG and the committee failed to show that DBP showed bad faith or inexcusable negligence when it approved the loans, and that the loans were grossly disadvantageous to the government.

It said the records revealed that the DBP had studied and evaluated Bagumbayan's loan application and followed acceptable banking practices.

RP envoy hit for overprice of OFWs' fare

By Christian V. Esguerra

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO FLY FROM Lebanon to Manila? Around $600 or less.

But for 139 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) repatriated from Lebanon last May 7, the fare was allegedly overpriced—or nearly tripled—at $1,709.35 each.

In a scathing privilege speech Monday night, Rep. Al Francis Bichara, a former ambassador to Lebanon, lambasted the Philippine charge d' affaires to Lebanon Mariano Dumia for grave abuse and "malversation of public funds."

All in all, the trip—which included Dumia, his wife, two Lebanese immigration officials and the daughter of one of these officers—was worth $237,600, according to the lawmaker.

"This cost to the government is revolting and shocking," he said. "There is a glaring overprice of $1,000 per passenger, more or less... The flight is not even a chartered one."

Bichara said the tickets of Dumia, his wife and three Lebanese companions were "shouldered" by the same travel agency that provided the overpriced tickets. They were also reportedly given three return trip tickets.

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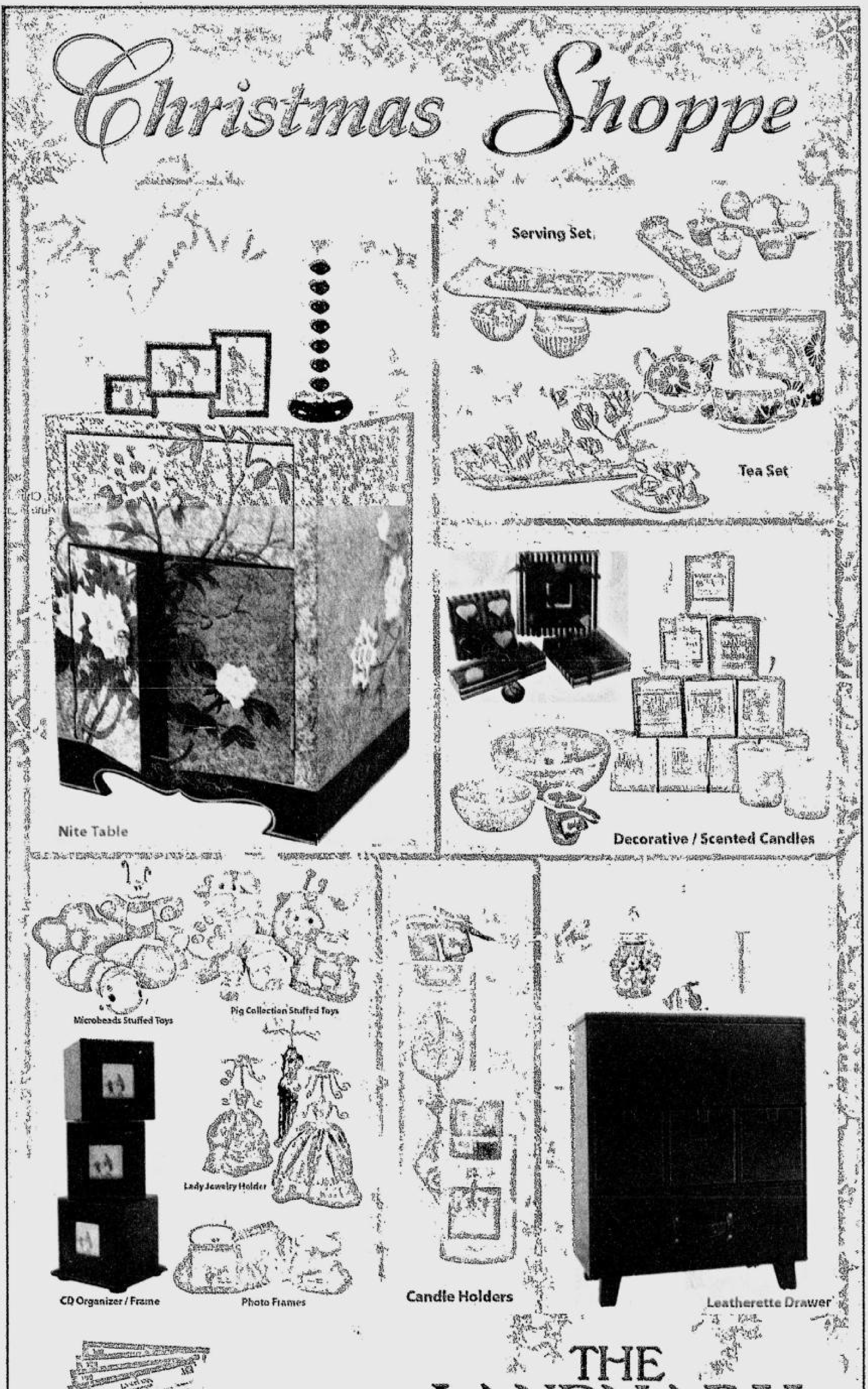

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THE LANDMARK

MAKATI

Pacquiao tells soldiers: Knock 'em out

By Nikko Dizon

JOLO, SULU—COMPARING THE FIGHT against terrorism to the sport that has brought him fame and fortune, boxing champion Manny Pacquiao yesterday rallied soldiers on the frontlines against extremists here to "knock out" the enemy.

"Fighting in the field is like boxing. You have to have discipline. You have to be able to anticipate the enemy's moves. You knock out the terrorists!" said Pacquiao in Filipino.

The boxing champ, a reservist master sergeant, donned Army fatigues and braved possible sniper fire to perk up the troops in combat zones in Jolo, Basilan and Zamboanga.

Accompanied by Philippine Army Commanding General Alexander Yano, he was taken on a tour of the city as well as military camps here and in Basilan, where a renewed offensive against Islamist extremist rebels is ongoing.

An impromptu motorcade of Pacquiao in Jolo City had people coming out of their stores and homes to flood the streets to get a glimpse of the "people's champ."

In Isabela City, Basilan, students from the Basilan National High School screamed at the sight of Pacquiao as he waved to them before boarding a Huey (UH-1H) helicopter that would take him to Zamboanga City.

Maj. Gen. Reuben Rafael, chief of Task Force Comet, said Pacquiao's visit meant a lot to the soldiers.

Rafael, however, said Pacquiao appeared "so tired." The boxer told him he had just come from a (movie) shooting.

Pacquiao had just flown in from the United States on Monday and had to endure the grueling trip to the Army camps that had him fly—for a few seconds—a Fokker aircraft and the chopper.

Manny's dream

At the Jolo Airport, Pacquiao told cheering troops: "*Kayo ang inspirasyon ko tuwing may laban ako. Noon pa man pangarap ko nang maging sundalo* (You are all my inspiration. It was always my dream to become a soldier.)"

The boxer made the rounds of the 104th headquarters in Jolo, Bud Datu in Indanan town where units of the Special Forces and 35th Infantry Battalion are stationed and the 105th Army Brigade in Basilan.

"As one of the sons of Mindanao, my prayer is that someday we can attain real peace," said Pacquiao, who was born in Bukidnon and raised in South Cotabato, both provinces in the troubled southern island.

Soldiers lined up to have their picture taken with the boxing hero, including a handful of American soldiers in the three Army camps that Pacquiao visited.

Pacquiao told reporters this trip was a promise he made after his victorious bout against Mexican boxer, Marco Antonio Barrera, in Las Vegas, Nevada last October.

"We're happy to see him," said PFC Benjie Bersamin, 23, as he waited in line to have his picture taken with Pacquiao, whose long hair and mustache were forgiven by Yano because the boxing champ still had to shoot scenes for his upcoming movie.

Some soldiers said they had hoped he would bring his sexy leading lady, Ara Mina.

But First Lieutenant Roldan Mira of the 3rd Special Forces Battalion based in Maluso town in Basilan shrugged off the actress' absence.

"We'd rather see Manny. He's everybody's idol," Mira said.

Mira said that twice already, Pacquiao had a scheduled fight when his battalion had a field operation.

"But we really found a way to watch those boxing matches even when we were in the field. We looked for a place with a television set," Mira chuckled. *With reports from Julie Alipala and Ed General, Inquirer Mindanao*

EFPS FILERS WITH MCIT DUE ALLOWED TO MANUALLY FILE 1702Q RETURNS AND E-SUBMIT THE REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

The recently issued Revenue Regulations No. 12-2007 (RR 12-2007) prescribes the application of the Minimum Corporate Income Tax (MCIT) in the quarterly corporate income tax payments and this will apply to quarterly corporate income tax returns to be filed starting November 29, 2007. With the advent of this RR, the existing BIR Form No. 1702Q (1702Q) has been enhanced to include computation of tax due based on the MCIT. The enhanced form is now available for use by the taxpayers and can be secured from the respective Revenue Regional Offices/Revenue District Offices or can be downloaded from the BIR website, www.bir.gov.ph.

For electronic filing, however, efforts have been exerted to produce the enhanced 1702Q in its electronic format before the 3rd quarter deadline. Unfortunately, technical constraints forbid the BIR to do the same. Hence, EFPS filers who will be filing their returns and paying MCIT due on November 29, 2007, can file their returns manually or thru the EFPS, at their option. Should the taxpayer opted to file manually, he shall use the enhanced 1702Q which shall be filed and the taxes due thereon shall be paid to the Authorized Agent Bank (AAB) located within the Revenue District Office/Large Taxpayers Service/Large Taxpayers District Office having jurisdiction over the taxpayer's principal place of business. On the other hand, if the taxpayer wishes to file thru the EFPS, he can use the old 1702Q, by filling-up the Special Rates Column with the amount due which is 2% of the gross income. However, the taxpayer shall be required to file an amended return once the enhanced 1702Q became available for EFPS filing. EFPS filers who will be paying the normal income tax, on the other hand, can still use the old 1702Q thus can still file and pay thru the EFPS facility.

While EFPS filers were allowed to file manually, due to the unavailability of the electronic 1702Q, attachments to the manually filed return shall still be submitted electronically following the herein stated procedures:

1. Access www.bir.gov.ph
2. Click eSubmission icon
3. Supply the necessary information such as TIN, registered name, email address
4. Attach the required attachments (accepted file extension: .dat .csv within a .zip file); ensure that the naming convention is observed
5. Click send
6. Wait for the acknowledgement receipt and validation report within the day.

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AIDS summit opens

PARLIAMENTARIANS from 55 countries yesterday opened the first global parliamentary summit to tackle the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with the goal of coming up with legislation to promote universal access to treatment.

The Philippines hosted the three-day summit at the Manila Hotel.

According to Anders Johnsson, secretary general of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the participants are expected to issue after the summit a "very concrete statement" on common efforts to make HIV/AIDS treatment accessible especially to the poor.

He said the summit would also tackle the criminalization of HIV/AIDS infection "which is a very sensitive area, so we expect a statement on caution and some basic principles to guide" the legislators.

Michel Sidibe, deputy executive director of the Joint United Nations Porgramme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), said the goal is to achieve universal access to treatment by 2010.

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Criteria for Selection

1. Any Filipino citizen, at least 18 years old.
2. Market value of its assets of the [illegible] P400,000.00
3. Must have a track record of at least three (3) years of [illegible]
4. Business concerns which are still at their incubation stage shall also qualify (carrying the three (3) year track record and market value of assets) if they show strong potentials for success and would just need funding to realize and actualize its strength.
5. The business and the nominee must have good reputation in the community and of good moral character.
6. Nominated enterprise must show the tangible results in terms of:

employment generation	15%
sales turnover	10%
growth in profit	10%
re-investment of profits	10%
savings generated	10%
Sipag at Tiyaga record	25%
impact to community such as enhancement of the quality of life of the citizens/promotion of sustainable development	20%
TOTAL	100%

13. The nominee must be endorsed by a local government organization, civil society organizations or NGOs.
14. The nominee should be the owner or founder of the enterprise.

The Search Process

1. The Pondo sa Sipag, Puhunan sa Tiyaga Secretariat shall call for nominations through government agencies, media, other organizations, and via the internet starting November 28, 2007. Nomination forms shall likewise be available at the Nacionalista Party website www.nacionalistaparty.com or at the NP Secretariat 2/F Starmall EDSA corner Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City, tel. no. 722-47-27; 723-87-41; fax 727-4223.
2. The Regional Search Committee which shall be identified in posters and print ad shall also distribute nomination forms.
3. The interested participants shall accomplish the nomination form and have the same endorsed by any of the following: barangay, LGU, NGO, Civil Society Group in the locality where the business is located.
4. The Nominee shall submit the accomplished application form to the Regional Search Offices of the Program.
5. The nominations will be screened by the Search Committee and they shall affix a number according to the order of their submission.
6. The Search Committee shall forward only those that pre-qualify. All applications submitted shall be acknowledged by the Search Committee; materials submitted shall become the property of the Nacionalista Party.
7. The Search Committees shall rank the nominees in the order of their appreciation of documents submitted. They may conduct on-site inspection or video interview to fully document a presentation being evaluated.
8. The top three (3) nominees as evaluated by the Search Committees shall be forwarded to the National Selection Committee for their evaluation. The top 3 nominees per region shall be considered as semi-finalists.
9. The final screening to choose the winners and special awardees will be done by the National Selection Committee composed of the following persons:
   - A member of the Nacionalista Party;
   - A representative from the Media;
   - A representative from the Academe;
   - A representative from the business sector;
   - A representative from the private sector.

   They may choose from among themselves who shall be the Chairperson of the National Search Committee. They may choose to interview semi-finalists if they deem it necessary to substantiate their choice.
10. Awarding shall be in Metro Manila in April, 2008.

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[illegible] P100,000
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P100,000.00 [illegible]

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The [illegible] and the [illegible] good [illegible] good [illegible]

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[illegible] the quality of [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

The interested participant shall accomplish the application form and have it endorsed by any of the following: barangay, LGU, NGO, Civil Society Group [illegible]

The Nominee shall [illegible] application form [illegible] Regional Search Office of the Program.

The nominations will be [illegible] by the Search Committee and they shall affix a number according to the order of their submission.

The Search Committee shall [illegible] only those that pre-qualify [illegible] by the Search Committee [illegible] shall become the property of the Nacionalista Party.

The Search Committee shall [illegible] appreciation of documents [illegible] to fully document [illegible] being evaluated.

The top three (3) nominees [illegible] evaluated by the Search Committee shall be [illegible] to the National Selection Committee for the evaluation. The top nominees per region shall be considered as semi-finalist.

The final screening to choose the winners and special awardees will be done by the National Selection Committee composed of the following:

- A member of the Nacionalista Party
- A representative from the Media
- A representative from the Academe
- A representative from the [illegible]
- A representative from the [illegible]

The [illegible] National Selection Committee [illegible] Chairperson of the National Search Committee [illegible]

Awarding shall be in Metro Manila in April 2008.

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

GMA forms another task force on political killings

From page A1

He said that apart from the extrajudicial killings, the task force would initially handle the high-profile murders of Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar on Nov. 13; Vice Mayor Zaldy Raga of Lumban, Laguna, on Oct. 4; former Mayor Rogelio Illustrisimo of Bantayan Island on May 2; Kalinga Vice Gov. Rommel Diasen on April 7; and Abra Rep. Luis Bersamin on Dec. 16, 2006.

Peace and security

In a report issued on Monday, UN Special Rapporteur Philip Alston said the Philippine military had systematically hunted down leftist activists in the course of an anticommunist campaign.

"It is worth mentioning that the President, as far as the Alston report is concerned, noted that he (Alston) himself said that it's not a national policy [to kill activists], and that the Armed Forces, as an organization, is not involved in the killings," Ermita said, recalling Ms Arroyo's words during a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

Clerical job

But Sen. Juan Ponce-Enrile dismissed the report as a "clerical job" that merely laid down the facts without making any conclusions on the brains behind the extrajudicial killings. "Unless he can name the person behind the killings, he (Alston) should just shut up," Enrile told reporters.

Ermita also pointed out that Ms Arroyo even sent him to the UN General Assembly late last month to "show that the President is taking seriously the issue of human rights."

In AO 211, Ms Arroyo said economic development and prosperity "can be achieved only in an atmosphere of peace and security."

"This administration, pursuant to its constitutional and international obligations, condemns all forms of violence, particularly when perpetrated for political gains and goals, destabilization, abuse of power and other political excesses," she said.

She vowed that the task force would "harness and mobilize" the entire government resources and enlist the support of civil society and the public to prevent and investigate the killings, and prosecute and punish the perpetrators.

Her personal choice

Ermita said Ms Arroyo had personally handpicked the composition of the task force—the Departments of Justice, National Defense, and Interior and Local Government, the offices of the National Security Adviser, Political Adviser, and Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, the Presidential Human Rights Committee, and the Philippine Information Agency.

Ms Arroyo also directed the AFP, PNP, National Intelligence Coordinating Council and National Bureau of Investigation to "actively support and participate, through their principal agencies, in carrying out the mandate of the task force."

She instructed the task force to coordinate with the judiciary, the Presidential Commission on Values Formation, the Commission on Human Rights, the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and nongovernmental organizations in carrying out its mandate.

She likewise ordered all government agencies, offices, agencies and local government units to extend full support, cooperation and assistance to the task force in carrying out its mandate.

She said the Department of Budget and Management would "provide the necessary funding support" for the task force.

No media campaign

Ermita said Malacañang would not engage in a media campaign to "counteract" the Alston report.

"Definitely, we are not going to do any counteraction. There is nothing to counteract," he said, adding that the Palace would just "put things in proper perspective" because "first of all, it is not a government policy to violate human rights."

Ermita said the series of presidential directives issued since last year were proof of Ms Arroyo's "determination to stop the killings."

These included asking the Supreme Court to designate special courts to try extrajudicial cases in 60 days, increasing funding for the Witness Protection Program, and appointing a civilian defense secretary, who promptly sought a review of the military's rules of engagement and counterinsurgency approach.

Ermita appealed to the media for fairness, saying even Alston had admitted that the national leadership was not tolerating the killings.

He said the media could download the report from the Internet and "look at [its] entirety" so that they could also "highlight the positive things mentioned by Alston."

"I hope the Philippines, my country, our country, will not be pictured in a bad light," Ermita said, insisting that the Alston report was merely "a repetition" of what the UN special rapporteur said during his exit briefing with the media when he left Manila on Feb. 21 after a 10-day fact-finding visit.

"Almost word for word. He just repeated that in the final report," Ermita said.

Only 10 days

According to Ermita, it was improbable for Alston to have a complete picture of the magnitude of the extrajudicial killings after only 10 days of investigation, "especially because we have an insurgency problem."

He said he "personally lamented" Alston's failure to consider this major factor.

"His view was given much emphasis that the military is in a state of denial ... since no military man has been indicted, punished [at the time]," Ermita said, adding that a lot of "developments" had occurred since February.

Police and military officials also said Alston should have stayed longer to properly assess the extrajudicial killings before concluding that it was the military that was to blame.

"We wish he had more time to stay to also look at other cases," Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, the AFP spokesperson, told reporters.

PNP Director General Avelino Razon also said as much at the Manila Overseas Press Club forum in Makati City on Tuesday night: "I would venture to say that I hoped Professor Alston spent more time here looking into the facts and figures we presented to him ... interviewing the families of victims so that he could make a proper conclusion."

Razon also said Alston's report was sweeping.

"Indeed, there were a few military as well as police personnel involved in the killings. But I would like to point out that the AFP and the PNP have taken action on them. Disciplinary measures have been instituted [and] cases have been filed against these errant personnel. With confidence, I can say that the Armed Forces will not condone these illegal acts by our personnel," he said.

Figures

The PNP has investigated 114 cases of murders of activists and 27 killings of journalists since 2001, when Ms Arroyo took power.

It has claimed that the killings were largely a result of an internal purge within the communist movement.

Razon said that of the total number of cases involving activists that had been investigated, 57 had been filed in court, seven were still under investigation, 49 were considered "cold cases" (or without significant developments for more than a year), and one had been dropped or closed.

Of the 57 cases filed, he said police found 24 to have been perpetrated by the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

Only seven cases had members of the military or paramilitary elements as suspects, Razon said. Four involved civilians allegedly linked to the military, and one involved a member of the PNP.

Bacarro also said the AFP had "undertaken measures" against soldiers involved in the killings. He said 13 cases against 22 regular AFP personnel had been filed in court.

He said five of the cases were dismissed by the DOJ for lack of evidence.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago described Alston's report as a "fair" and "even-handed" document that merely dismissed the "internal purge" theory.

She said the government should make a determined effort to educate soldiers that violence should not be used to kill people anonymously and instill fear among the public.

"This administration should be crystal clear in stating that it will not tolerate any form of violence," she said. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Solons want inquiry, heads of 3 government executives

From page A1

gation by the Senate," she said.

Legarda said such an inquiry was necessary not only for the family and friends of the victims but also for the members of the AFP and the Philippine National Police who had nothing to do with the murders.

The call for the ouster of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon was made in a joint statement issued by Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño of Bayan Muna, Liza Maza and Luzviminda Ilagan of Gabriela, and Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis.

The lawmakers said Gonzales, Ermita and Esperon were "primarily responsible" for the AFP's "National Security Plan Bantay Laya 1 and 2," a government campaign purportedly targeting leftist activists.

They described Oplan Bantay Laya as "the blueprint for counterinsurgency target research, casing, and the resultant extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances of civilians, mostly activists."

Sen. Jamby Madrigal also called for the immediate resignation of Gonzales, the main proponent of the theory that the executions were a result of purges within communist ranks.

Madrigal said the report of Philip Alston, UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial killings, was "a wake-up call from an impartial foreign observer" and "an indictment" of the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

She said Ms Arroyo's "failure to protect human rights is rooted in her incompetence and inability to cope with complicated social, economic and political problems and in her desire to stay in power at all costs."

Deliberate strategy

In his report, Alston said the military had "followed a deliberate strategy of systematically hunting down the leaders of leftist organizations" in some parts of the country.

He said the claim of government officials that the killings were largely the result of communist purges was "strikingly unconvincing" and "a cynical attempt to displace responsibility."

Alston called on Ms Arroyo to stop further killings and ensure that those responsible would be brought to justice.

Ocampo, Casiño and the other militant party-list lawmakers said the AFP's "continuing state of denial" was "part and parcel of the administration's systematic cover-up of its accountability" for the killings and forced disappearances, as well as for "rampant corruption, widespread electoral fraud, and other high crimes."

"This administration's bloody game of political survival must stop," they said.

The lawmakers demanded, apart from the scrapping of Oplan Bantay Laya, a categorical order by Malacañang to the AFP leadership for soldiers to stop the killings, report those involved, and apply the maximum punishment under Philippine laws.

They likewise demanded that the government present all *desaparecidos* (disappeared) believed to be in the custody of law enforcers.

'Bogus cases'

Ocampo and company also called for the abolition of the IALAG and the withdrawal of "bogus criminal cases against progressive legislators and other activists."

The IALAG, believed led by Gonzales, is said to be behind the lawsuits.

In a press conference, Reyes also called for the abolition of the IALAG, and a stop to the public labeling of militant groups as "communist fronts," the harassment of their leaders and members, and the drawing up of an order of battle that was serving as a "virtual hit list" of activists.

Reyes expressed hope that the report would further exert international pressure on the Arroyo administration to stop the killings and abductions.

He said Bayan was holding the government "responsible for the 800 dead and almost 200 disappeared" since the Arroyo administration took power in 2001.

GMA held hostage by AFP

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the Alston report had merely formalized what had long been known by Filipinos.

"As long as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is held hostage by the AFP, she cannot do anything to stop and punish those who are guilty in the AFP. That is the result of their involvement in a lot of scandals that have rocked the country, particularly the 'Hello Garci' [election fraud] scandal," Lacson said.

Sen. Francis Escudero said he was not surprised by Alston's findings. He said that in his hometown in Bicol, most of the executions were done just five kilometers away from a military or police camp.

"The modus operandi is still the same—the killer wears a bonnet, rides a motorcycle and uses a .45-cal pistol. But up to now, a suspect has yet to be caught. Under these circumstances, I won't be surprised if their findings point to the direction of the AFP or PNP," Escudero said.

Prove Alston wrong

Two members of the House of Representatives, one from the administration and the other from the opposition, called on Malacañang and the military brass to address Alston's findings.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, a former national security adviser and now House deputy minority leader, said "corrective action" on erring members of the military was necessary.

Muntinlupa Rep. Rufino Rozzano Biazon, a vice chair of the House committee on national defense and a member of the administration coalition, called on the AFP to prove Alston wrong.

Both congressmen said mere denial was not the way to go.

"The government should reply point by point to the report. It must accept the possibility based on evidence that indeed human rights violations are committed by individual members of the military, and institute corrective action," Golez said in a text message.

"Denial will only exacerbate the problem and impede the ability of the [AFP] leadership to institute the necessary reforms," he said.

DFA should react, not AFP

In another text message, Biazon said the Department of Foreign Affairs was in a position to cast doubt on Alston's report.

He said that "instead of reacting negatively to [Alston's] statements," the military should show through "concrete actions" that the latter was "mistaken."

"If they are confident that the statements are not applicable to them, there shouldn't be a need for the AFP, especially the chief of staff, to directly react to [Alston]. The proper personality to react to this is the [DFA]," he said, adding:

"The [AFP] should refrain from crossing political and diplomatic boundaries which are beyond its scope."

In a statement, Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III, the chair of the House committee on human rights, posed a challenge to the AFP:

"The only way for extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances to stop is for the military to admit that these things happen and that the military is ready to prosecute and punish those involved.

"The problem is that the perception of the people is that the military is part of the problem and also part of the cover-up. They can actually be part of the solution if they so choose."

Confirmation

In Iloilo City, the families of two missing activists said the Alston report had confirmed what they knew.

"This merely confirms our firm belief that the killings, abductions and attacks are the handiwork of the military," Luis Posa, elder brother of the missing Ma. Luisa Posa-Dominado, said by phone.

Posa said the report had "set aside whatever doubts exist on who is behind these killings and abductions."

He urged the military to release his sister and Nilo Arado, both of whom were abducted by armed men on April 12 in Barangay Cabanbanan in Oton town; Iloilo, and had not been seen since.

Insulting

Dominado was the spokesperson in Panay of the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (Selda); Arado headed the regional chapter of Bayan.

Military officials have repeatedly denied involvement in the disappearance of Dominado and Arado.

But Arado's wife Rose said the military denials were "ridiculous and insulting in the face of the report of the UN, a respected and nonpartisan institution."

"The denials are lies to cover up for their crimes against my husband and many others," she said. *With reports from Jerome Aning in Manila; Nestor Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas*

Aklan cops nab suspect in radioman's slay 6 years ago

From page A1

cia in Aklan at around 7:45 a.m. by members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the provincial police.

The other suspect, Jessie Ticar, remains at large.

In the Hinolan case, the alleged gunman, former Lezo Mayor Alfredo Arcenio, has eluded lawmen despite a P100,000 cash reward for his arrest.

Ureta and Hinolan are among the 90 journalists murdered since 1986 and among the 53 killed since President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001, according to a tally of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

A lone witness in the Ureta murder, identified as Gerson Sonio, has tagged Raz and Ticar as the ones who shot and killed the broadcaster on Jan. 2, 2001 along the national highway in Barangay Bagtu, Lezo town, Aklan, 7 kilometers west of the capital town of Kalibo.

The suspects have denied involvement in the killing and have questioned the credibility of the witness.

Ureta, program director of radio station dyKR of Radio Mindanao Network and host of "Agong Nightwatch," was driving a motorcycle on his way to his parents' house when two men on a motorcycle caught up with him and shot him.

The journalist fell into a ditch but managed to reach a house along the road before the killers finished him off.

Ureta was investigating the proliferation of illegal gambling and illegal drugs in the province when he was killed.

Arrest warrant

Hinolan, 38, Bombo Radyo's "most fearless commentator," was shot and killed by a lone gunman outside a carnival in the capital town of Kalibo.

Raz was arrested on the basis of a warrant issued on Nov. 21 by Judge Marietta Homena-Valencia of the Kalibo Regional Trial Court Branch 1. He is now detained at the Numancia police station.

His widow Emely said the arrest of Raz was "an early Christmas gift for me and our son Kint." In a telephone interview, she said she hoped that the police would also arrest the other suspects.

The NUJP also welcomed the arrest but said the resolution of cases of slain journalists was still moving too slow.

"It's about time. Six years of crying out for justice is too long for Rolando's family," said NUJP president Jose Torres Jr. in a text message.

Palawan

The Aklan prosecutor's office had dismissed the complaint against the suspects, but this was reversed by the Department of Justice in January.

In Puerto Princesa City, a key witness in the trial of a former policeman for the murder last year of Palawan broadcaster Fernando "Dong" Batul was barred by the judge from testifying yesterday and had him arrested instead for an allegedly trumped-up charge.

RTC Judge Toribio Ilao Jr. ordered the arrest of Ferdinand Bayles, who was presented as a prosecution witness on the strength of a warrant issued for illegal gambling.

Bayles, according to prosecution counsel Joselito Alisuag, was to testify that he actually saw the accused gunman, Aaron Golifardo, shoot Batul, a hard-hitting commentator of local radio station dyPR, on May 22 while driving to his radio station.

Ilao repeatedly denied the prosecution's plea to allow Bayles to testify and instead directly ordered the police to arrest the former officer. *With a report from Redempto Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

SAVE MARILOU! -SMRM-
SAVE MARILOU RANARIO -SMRM-
INUTIL ... KASO NI MARILOU! MIGRANTE
NOLI! INUTIL sa Kaso ni Marilou MIGRANTE
KATARUNGAN PARA KAY MARILOU!

SAVING MARILOU: Migrante members hold a rally at the Welcome Rotunda in Quezon City on Wednesday to urge prompt action on the case of Marilou Ranario who has been sentenced to death in Kuwait. ERIK ARAZAS

Noli: I'm ready to kneel to save Ranario's life

From page A1

is sending De Castro to Kuwait with her written appeal to the emir to spare Ranario's life, said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

"If it is necessary that I kneel and plead with the emir for forgiveness of Ranario, I will do so so that she will not be hanged," De Castro told the INQUIRER.

De Castro, who is expected to depart sometime this week, said he hoped the emir would either reduce Ranario's sentence to life imprisonment or grant her royal pardon because four of the six relatives of the victim had accepted "blood money."

Ms Arroyo yesterday met briefly with Ranario's parents—Rosario, 66, and Encarnacion, 67—and younger sister Wilfreda in Cebu, where they were flown from their Surigao del Norte home.

Noriel Devanadera, acting administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, said Ms Arroyo, who is attending a local officials meeting in Cebu, told the family that she would do everything to save Ranario.

Never too late

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo confirmed that the government was seeking the intercession of foreign governments. "It's never too late. We will appeal for clemency," Romulo said.

Kuwait's Court of Cassation on Tuesday upheld a lower court's decision sentencing Ranario, a 34-year-old teacher, to be hanged for stabbing her female employer, Mahmoud Faraj Al Mubarak, 46, on Jan. 11, 2005.

Romulo said the death sentence would have to be signed by the emir in two or three months. The sentence may be implemented sometime in February, when the emir usually issues royal pardon to convicts.

De Castro said that in his meeting with the emir, he would present the second letter of appeal from Ms Arroyo as well as the "tanazuls" or letters seeking forgiveness that prove majority of the victim's family had forgiven Ranario.

'Blood money'

"We are not losing any hope because we have already paid blood money to the mother and the victim's four siblings," De Castro told local television.

He cited the Arab custom in which a suspect could be spared if the aggrieved family agreed to receive payment of blood money and granted forgiveness.

"In this case, the family has already forgiven her," De Castro said.

Romulo said Ms Arroyo had spoken with the emir by phone and had written to him asking for clemency.

"She left the country because she only wanted to help the family," Ranario's sister-in-law Susan told the INQUIRER in her hometown of Tubod in Surigao del Norte. "But now, she's the one who desperately needed help."

Hope turns into nightmare

Susan said Ranario's employment abroad would have given the family a glimmer of hope after the family was evicted out of the parcel of land that her father used to till.

But the prospect of a stable income that had lured Marilou to leave the country in December 2003 and her two children behind suddenly turned into a nightmare.

Ranario's 13-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter had appealed to Ms Arroyo for help.

"The children are waiting," said Ranario's mother Encarnacion in Tubod. "They need a mother; we are too old to take care of them."

Remittances

De Castro's visit to Kuwait underscores the priority the government gives to the welfare of about 8 million Filipinos working overseas.

Filipinos overseas sent home $10.5 billion during the first nine months of this year, more than the $9.1 billion in the same period last year. Philippine remittances amount to about 10 percent of the gross domestic product every year.

Relations between the Philippines and Singapore soured in 1995 when the city-state ignored appeals by Manila to halt the execution of Flor Contemplacion and hanged her for murdering a fellow Filipino maid and a Singaporean boy.

Then President Fidel Ramos was sharply criticized for moving too slowly to help Contemplacion amid massive anti-Singapore protests in the Philippines.

In 2004, the Philippines weathered criticisms from the United States and its coalition forces when Ms Arroyo ordered the withdrawal of its token peacekeeping contingent from Iraq as part of a deal to save truck driver Angelo de la Cruz, who was seized by militants who threatened to behead him.

The leftist group Migrante International yesterday called for protests against the Arroyo administration, saying that it had been "criminally neglecting" Ranario's case. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño, Jerome Aning and Jhunnex Napallacan and Irene R. Sino Cruz, Inquirer Visayas, and Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao, AP*

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INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The North Luzon Railways Corporation (NorthRail) invites interested Security Agencies to submit Application for Eligibility and to Bid, for its Security Services requirement.

Prospective Bidders must have continuous services in the security/detective agency operations business for at least five (5) consecutive years. The Approved Budget for the Contract is Pesos: Eighteen Million Four Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Three Hundred Forty Four (PhP 18,472,344.00).

Applications for Eligibility and Bid Proposals (technical and financial) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria. All bids shall be evaluated based on the Agency's offer for the contract under bidding and shall be subject to detailed evaluation, and to Post-qualification before an award is made. Bid prices submitted lighter than the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) or lower than the PADPAO rate per security guard shall be rejected outright.

For those interested, Application for Eligibility and Bid Documents will be available for issuance from December 4 to December 12, 2007 upon submission of a Letter of Intent addressed to the Chairperson of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), and payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Six Thousand Five Hundred (PhP 6,500.00), at the NorthRail Office, 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center Building, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila. Duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, as well as Technical and Cost Proposals shall be submitted on or before 12:00 noon of 27 December 2007, at the address mentioned above. Opening of Eligibility Documents and Bid Documents will be at 1:00 p.m. of the same date. All interested Bidders are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference to be held on 14 December 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the NorthRail Office 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center Building, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provision of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the Project, you may get in touch with Ms. Alma Theresa T. Arizala, our BAC Secretariat at tel. 8563808 and Engr. Fermin M. Rulona, Jr. at 8944184.

NorthRail reserves the right to reject or accept any applications; and to annul or cancel the entire process, or reject all applications, as it may deem proper without incurring any liability to the affected applicants.

(Sgd.) GLORIA GEORGINA DJ JOTA
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Palace remands Sumilao farmers' land claim to DAR

By Jerome Aning

MALACAÑANG HAS GRANTed the appeal of Higaonon farmers from Sumilao, Bukidnon to have the Department of Agrarian Reform hear their petition to stop the conversion of a disputed land into a hog farm.

In an order dated Nov. 16, the Office of the President, through Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, remanded the dispute to DAR, saying the agency has the expertise on the factual issues raised by the farmers, including their insistence that they have the legal standing to protest the conversion.

Ermita said DAR is "a trier of facts on specific matters within its field of expertise [and is] in a better position to assess and evaluate the credibility of the contending parties and the validity of their respective evidence."

"Hence, remanding the case back to the DAR is but appropriate under the circumstances," he added.

Farmers' protest

Some 60 Higaonon farmers from Sumilao are marching to Manila to bring their plight to Malacañang and DAR. As of yesterday, they were nearing the Quezon-Laguna boundary, having marched in some 1,500 km. They are expected to reach the outskirts of Metro Manila on Monday.

"The farmers are happy with the decision by Malacañang, which in effect reversed its earlier denial of the farmers' petition on the ground that the petitioners lacked legal standing," Socrates Bansuela, coordinator of Lakaw Sumilao Network, said in a statement.

No legal standing

The farmers are claiming the 144-hectare property in Barangay San Vicente, Sumilao, saying it is agricultural land covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and that they were the farmer-beneficiaries of the property. However, in 1999, the Supreme Court upheld the conversion of the property to agro-industrial use and ruled that the 165 Sumilao farmers opposing it had no legal standing to do so.

In 2004, the farmers revived the case and asked the DAR to stop the conversion, but Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman refused to hear the petition, saying the DAR had no jurisdiction. He referred the case to Malacañang, which originally ordered the conversion.

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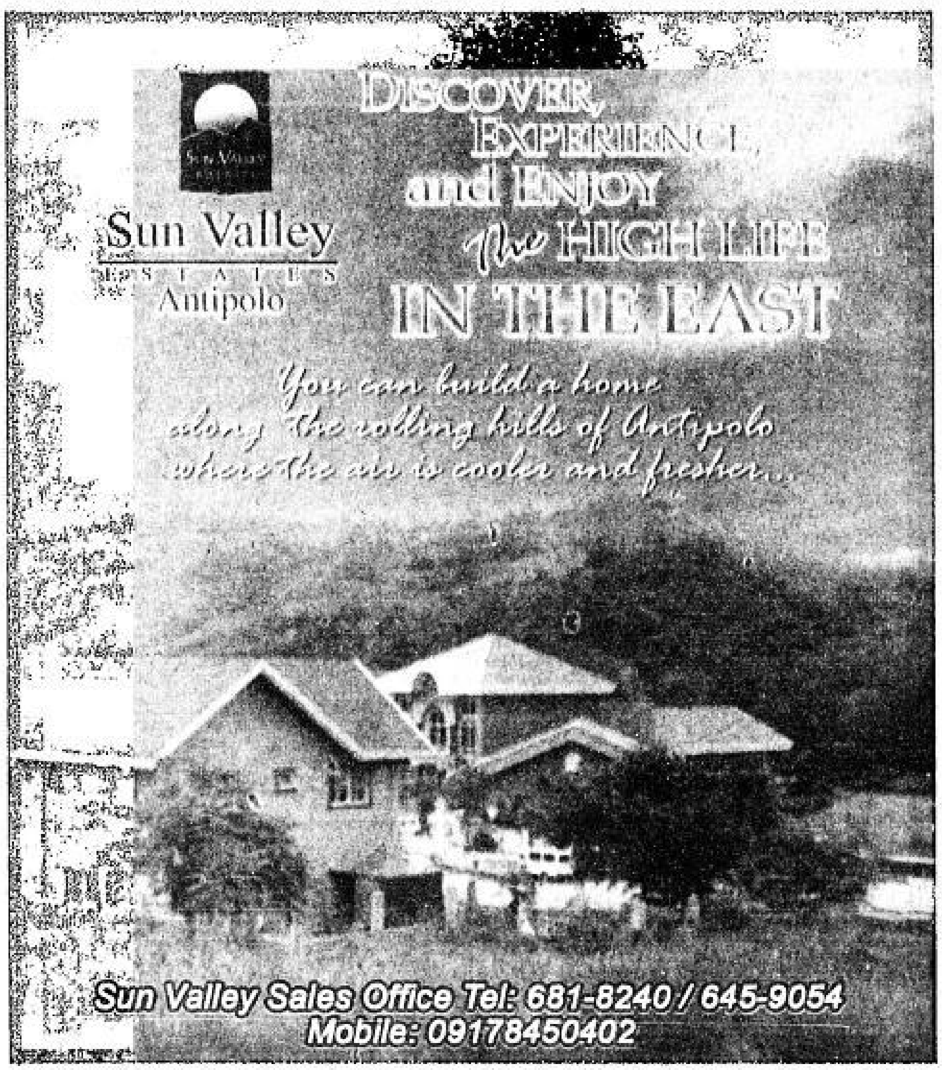

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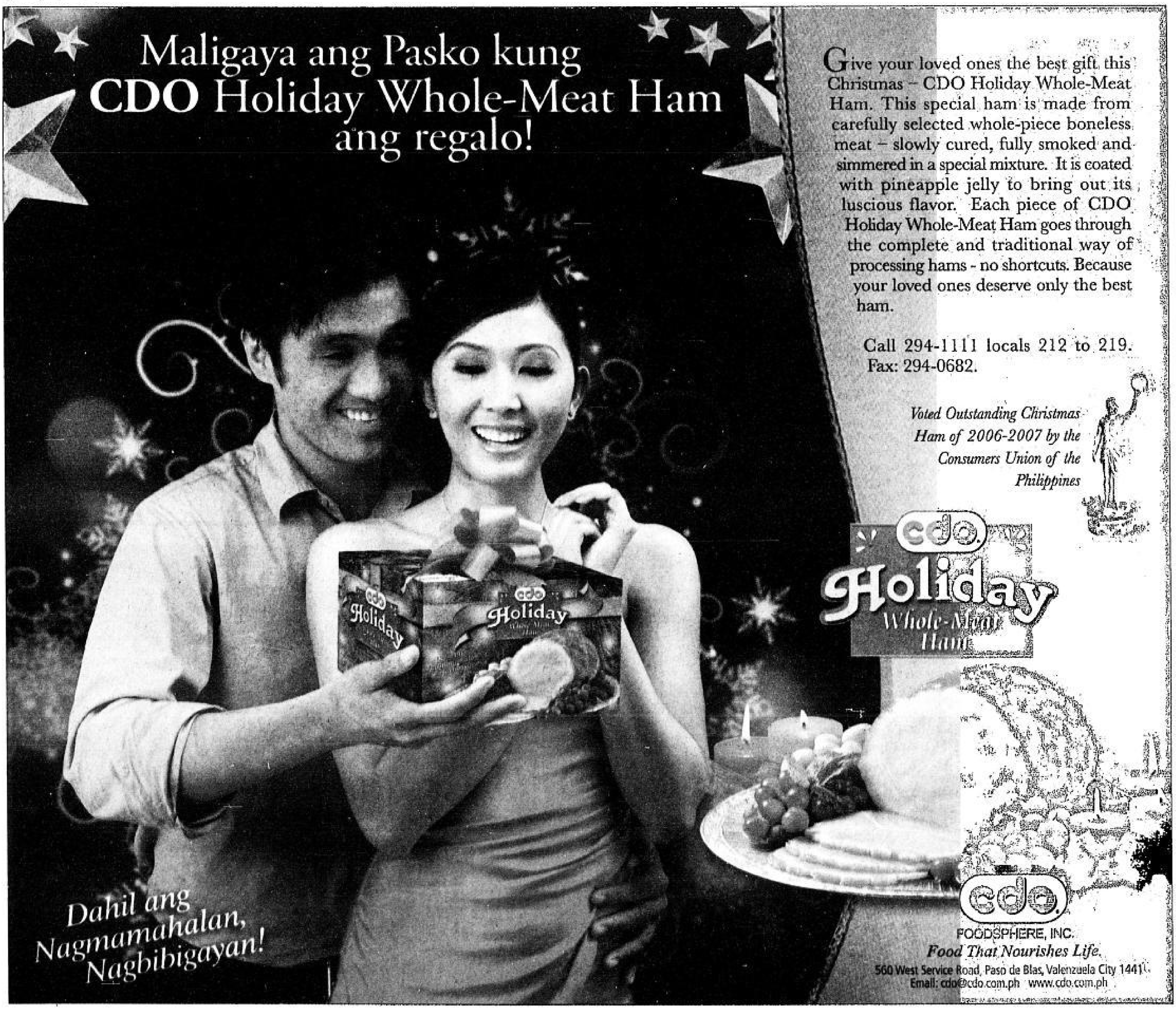

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UN: World has only 10 years to fix climate

From page A1

experience reversals on a grand scale in the areas of health, education and poverty. For the future, there is real threat of ecological catastrophe," Kevin Watkins, the report's lead author, told reporters at Brazil's capital.

"We could be on the verge of seeing human development reverse for the first time in 30 years," Watkins said.

Asked whether the report was alarmist, the senior research fellow at Britain's Oxford University said it was based on science and evidence.

"I defy anybody to speak to the victims of droughts and floods, like we did, and challenge our conclusions on the long-term impact of climate disasters," he said.

Message for Bali

The report sets targets and provides a road map to reduce carbon emissions before leaders of 80 countries hold a UN climate summit next week in Bali, Indonesia. Emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere help trap heat and lead to global warming.

"The message for Bali is the world cannot afford to wait. It has less than a decade to change course," Watkins said.

The UN report said dangerous climate change would be unavoidable if in the next 15 years, emissions followed the same trend as the past 15 years.

To avert an ecological catastrophe, the rise in global temperature must be limited to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). The UN authors, however, noted that carbon emissions, mostly from cars and power plants, had reached twice the level needed to meet that target temperature.

The report said climate change would condemn millions of people to poverty. Climate disasters between 2000 and 2004 affected 262 million people, 98 percent of them in the developing world.

The poor are often forced to sell productive assets or save on food, health and education, creating "lifelong cycles of disadvantage," according to the report.

A temperature rise of between 3 and 4 degrees Celsius (5.4 and 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) would displace 340 million people through flooding, droughts would diminish farm output, and retreating glaciers would cut off drinking water from as many as 1.8 billion people, the report said.

In Kenya, children 5 years old or younger are 50 percent more likely to be malnourished if they are born during a drought year, affecting their lifelong health and productivity.

$86 billion needed

The report said the United States and other rich nations should pay the biggest share of the $86 billion needed to fight global warming.

Half the cost, $44 billion, would go for "climate-proofing" developing nations' infrastructure, while $40 billion would help the poor cope with climate-related risks. The other $2 billion would go to strengthening responses to natural disasters, the report said.

US Democratic Rep. Edward J. Markey, chair of the House select committee on energy independence and global warming, said the UN report showed the importance of "America moving toward the goal of 80-percent cuts in heat-trapping emissions by the middle of this century."

"This report should give all leaders in Washington the moral imperative to back global warming action in Congress and in the White House," Markey said in a statement.

Preserving rainforest

At the report's release ceremony, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva called on rich nations to do their part.

"In Bali, we are going to very seriously discuss the price rich countries have to pay so that poorer countries can preserve their forests," Silva said. "Because you're not going to convince a poor person in any country that he can't cut down a tree if he doesn't have the right to work and eat in exchange."

Brazil is home to around 70 percent of the Amazon rainforest—the world's largest remaining tropical wilderness.

Scientists believe the rainforest can act as enormous sponge to soak up greenhouse gases, but deforestation and burning in the rainforest release millions of tons of carbon into the air each year, making Brazilians one of the leading emitters of greenhouse gases.

Trade barriers

The UN report also found that increased energy efficiency, alternative fuels and even the reduction of trade barriers could go a long way toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The report suggested, among other measures, that a reduction of tariffs on Brazilian ethanol "would generate gains not just for Brazil, but for climate change mitigation."

Brazilian ethanol made from sugarcane is more efficient than the corn-based ethanol produced in the United States. But Brazilian ethanol is subject to high US import taxes meant to protect American farmers.

Tax petroleum

"For Brazil to export ethanol, we have to pay an enormous tariff, almost twice the price, Silva said, adding that the oil producing countries pay no such taxes. "Where is the desire to depollute the planet. We could start taxing petroleum."

The report also noted that developed countries were failing to meet their targets under the current climate treaty, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, for cutting greenhouse gases by 2012.

France, Germany, Japan and Britain have reduced their emissions somewhat, but the European Union is falling short of its goal of a 20-percent cut by 2020.

The United States and Australia were singled out as the only major Western economies not to sign the Kyoto Protocol.

Rising temperatures

Scientists have reported temperatures had rose an average of less than 1 degree Celsius (1.3 degrees Fahrenheit) over the past 100 years, bringing the prospect of a century of extreme weather, rising seas, widening drought and disease and harm to fisheries, forests and farmland.

"These impacts ... go unnoticed in financial markets and in the measurement of world gross domestic product," the panel's report said. "But increased exposure to drought, to more intense storms, to floods and environmental stress is holding back the efforts of the world's poor to build a better life for themselves and their children."

Principal culprits

Olav Kjorven, head of the UN Development Program's bureau for development policy, said global warming would leave 600 million more people in sub-Saharan Africa hungry from collapsing agriculture, an extra 400 million people exposed to malaria and other diseases, and an added 200 million flooded out of their homes.

"The countries of the world that are the principal culprits, if you wish, for creating this problem in the first place need to act strongly to safeguard the future of those that have done nothing to cause this problem but are the most vulnerable," Kjorven said. *Reports from AP and Reuters*

RP nanny ...

From page A1

1975 Porsche 911.

A mother of one, Flordauza had been working as a nanny and cleaner for a Chelsea family and was on her way to a bus stop when the accident happened.

Flordauza suffered serious head injuries and died after being airlifted to Charing Cross Hospital.

Extremely likeable

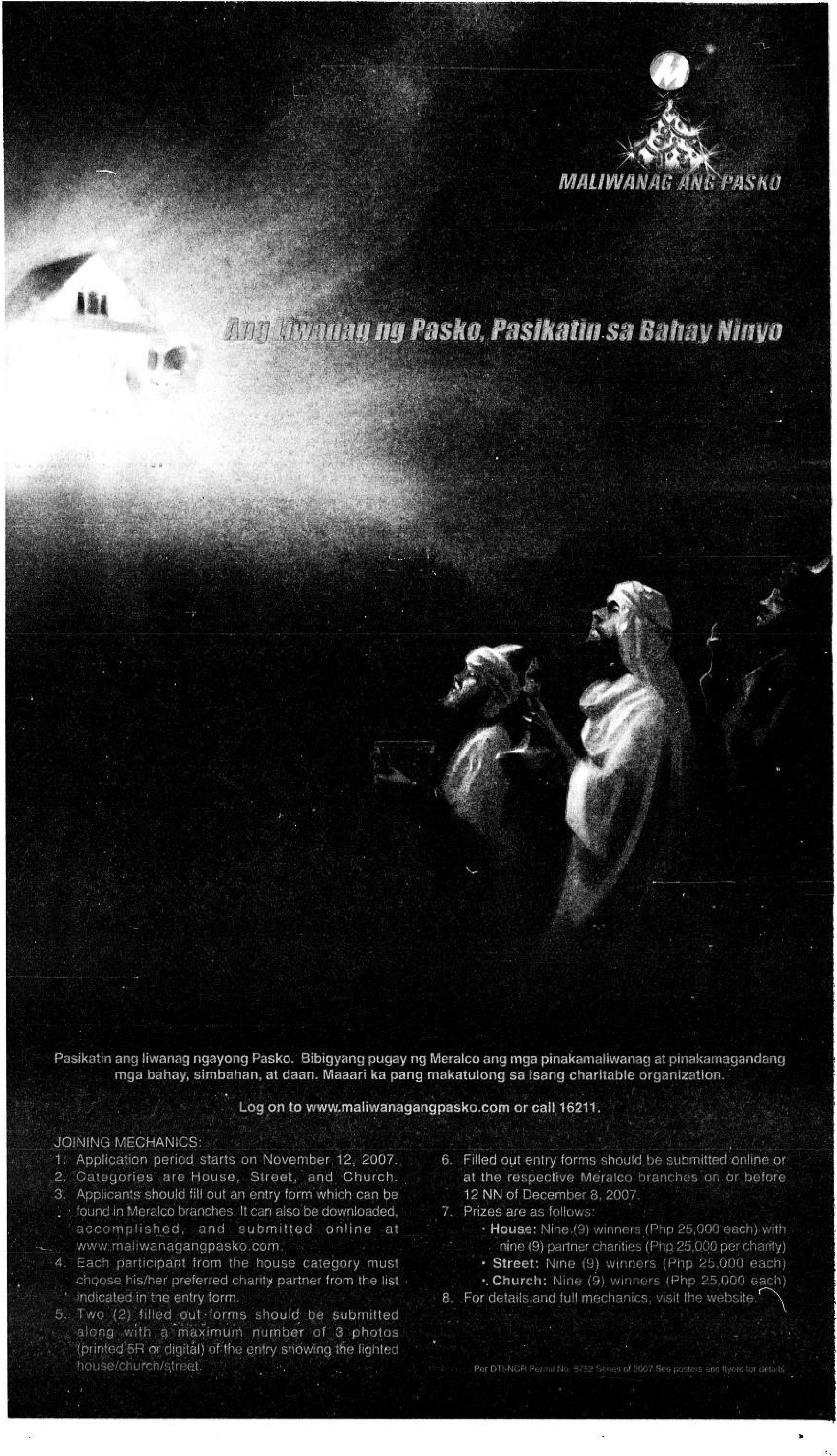
The report said that Flordauza's employer, who did not want to be named, described the Filipino nanny as "an extremely likeable person."

"She had not seen her little daughter for three years. She was planning to visit her and her mother on Dec. 14 in the Philippines. It is such a tragedy," the Daily Mail quoted her employer as saying.

Two other women and a man were also injured in the crash, which demolished the wall of a house, the same report said. One woman sustained a broken leg while a man suffered a broken ankle.

Reports quoted witnesses as saying that the Porsche had been traveling very slowly when it suddenly accelerated, mounted the pavement and rammed into the pedestrians. The report said the 64-year-old driver of the classic green sports car might have suffered a heart attack.

King's Road and Old Church Street were closed for six hours as paramedics and policemen attended to the victims.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5. Two (2) filled out forms should be submitted along with a maximum number of 3 photos (printed 5R or digital) of the entry showing the lighted house/church/street.
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8. For details and full mechanics, visit the website.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5752 Series of 2007 See posters and flyers for details

UN: World has only 10 years to fix climate

From page A1

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For Brazil export ethanol, we have pay an enormous tariff, mo twice the price Silva said, adding that the oil producing countries pay no such taxes. "Where is the desir pollute plar oulc ing petroleum por ed the unt ailing ne unc urrent climate the Proto

utting greenhouse gases by 2012.

France Germany, Japan and Britain have reduced their emissions somewhat but the European Union is falling short its goal of a 20-percent cut by 2020.

The United States and Australia were singled out as the major Western economies not signing the Kyoto Protocol.

Rising temperatures

Scientists have reported temperatu had rose an average of less than 1 degree Celsius (1.3 degr ahre he past 100 years f a century of extreme weather, rising eas widening drought and disea harm to fishen nd farm'

"These imp nancial market and in the men of world domestic od the panel port said Bu sed exposu dro

floods and environmental holding back the efforts of the world poor to build a better life and the children

Principal culprits

Olav Kjor N Development Pro develop m said warming 0 people y from col- 400 million malaria and her dis dded 200 million flood ld that are wish, for iti first place and the lone nothe the said *Reports from AP and Reuters*

RP nanny ...

From page A1

1975 Po

A mothe Flordauz had bee working nanny and cleaner for Chelsea family and was on her way to a bus stop when the accident happened.

Flordauza suffered serious head injuries and died after irlifted to Charing Cross Hospital.

Extremely likeable

ne report who scribed th xtremely likeable p

"She had little daughter three. She nning visit and her mother Dec 14 in the Philippines. It h Mail quoted her employer saying

Two other women and a man injured in the crash, which demolished the wall of a house the same report said. One woman sustained a broken leg while a ma suffered a broken ankle.

Reports quoted witne ying that Porsche had been travelling very slowly suddenly acele mounted t and rammed into the pedestrian said the 64-year driver of the sports car might suffered a heart

King's Road and Old Church Str closed fo an di and policem

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5. Two (2) filled out forms should be submitted along with a maximum number of 3 photos (printed 5R or digital) of the entry showing the lighted house/church/street.
6. Filled out entry forms should be submitted online or at the respective Meralco branches on or before 12 NN of December 8, 2007.
7. Prizes are as follows:
   - House: Nine (9) winners (Php 25,000 each) with nine (9) partner charities (Php 25,000 per charity)
   - Street: Nine (9) winners (Php 25,000 each)
   - Church: Nine (9) winners (Php 25,000 each)
8. For details and full mechanics, visit the website.

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

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OPINION

State of denial

EDITORIAL

THE FINAL REPORT OF UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL Rapporteur Philip Alston on "extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions" in the Philippines is unsettling but essential reading. Those who care for our country ought to read it. It is not merely an indictment of the military for its role in the killings, it is also a comprehensive indictment of the Arroyo administration itself.

We say comprehensive, because while the focus of the report is on the administration's appalling human rights record, the pattern of official policy and unofficial mendacity, the culture of impunity, that has come to mark the administration and its allies (and that is accurately reflected in the final report) explain other failures of the administration, too.

Let's consider some of the less written-about findings. Some of Alston's sharpest words, for example, are aimed at Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez. Her office, he writes, "has done almost nothing in recent years to investigate the involvement of government officials in extrajudicial executions." That kind of track record is simply indefensible, but Alston, a professor of law, probes deeper and concludes that the "Office of the Ombudsman has surrendered its constitutionally-mandated independence from the executive branch." Considering the special role the powerful office plays in the administration of justice, this is a chilling but not unjustified conclusion. What exactly does he mean by that? He offers several answers, including possibly the most damaging of them all: "The Office of the Ombudsman often operates as a de facto subsidiary of the Department of Justice."

That a constitutional officer like Gutierrez, one of the few so-called impeachable officials in the government, finds herself effectively a subordinate to a rankly political alter ego of the President like Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez is a legal calamity. It explains why, as Alston writes, "Despite having received a significant number of complaints alleging extrajudicial executions attributed to state agents, no information was provided by the Ombudsman's office indicating that it had undertaken any productive investigations." It also explains why, to give just one of many possible examples, the Mega-Pacific anomaly became the perfect crime.

Alston also takes aim at National Security Adviser Bert Gonzales: "Senior government officials are attempting to use prosecutions to dismantle the numerous civil society organizations and party-list groups that they believe to be fronts for the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]. While this project is sometimes discussed as if it were a dark conspiracy, it was explained to me openly and directly by numerous officials as the very function of IALAG [Inter-Agency Legal Action Group], which was established in 2006." And who runs IALAG? Real "institutional power and legal authority over its operations is concentrated in the Office of the National Security Adviser."

Alston concludes: "The most deleterious role played by IALAG bodies may be to encourage prosecutors to act as team players with the AFP and PNP in counterinsurgency operations and to de-prioritize cases involving the deaths of leftist activists." This explains not only the rehashed charges against party-list leaders but also the administration's convenient resurrection, as necessity dictates, of the communist bogeyman.

Alston also takes Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to task for the killings (over 500 since 1998) commonly attributed to the so-called Davao Death Squad. "The mayor's positioning is frankly untenable: He dominates the city so thoroughly as to stamp out whole genres of crime, yet he [says he] remains powerless in the face of hundreds of murders committed by men without masks in view of witnesses." This is the same mayor whom the President calls on for law and order advice, which helps explain the administration's cavalier attitude toward killings and its embrace of generals who leave a trail of blood behind, like Jovito Palparan.

It was the Arroyo administration that invited the United Nations to send an expert to investigate the extrajudicial killings; it made sense to do so, even if only from a public-relations perspective. But now that Alston's final and damning report is in, will the administration try to use PR to kill the message and shoot the messenger?

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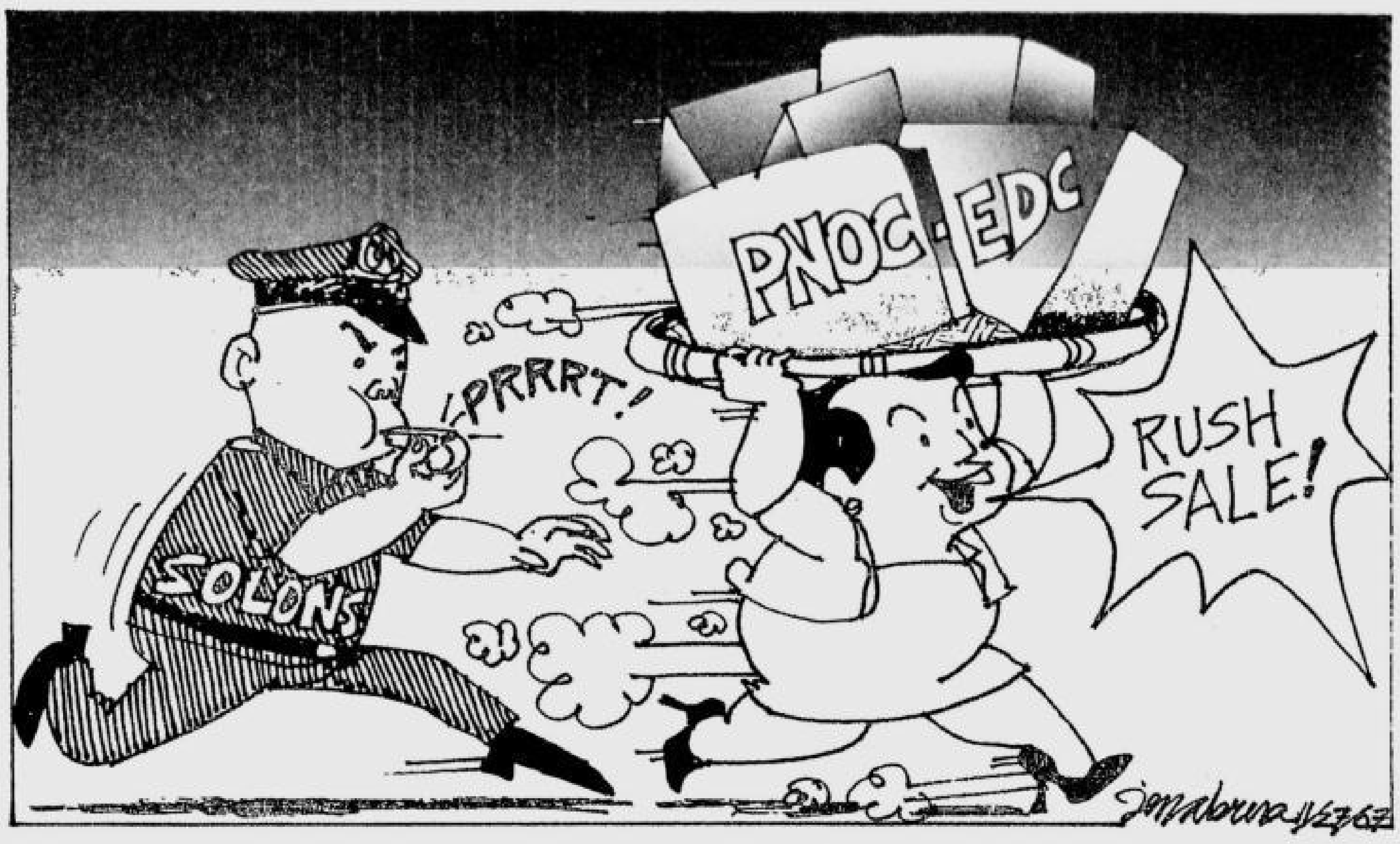


Sweat or pontificate?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"IN JOURNALISM, IT IS SIMPLER TO SOUND off than it is to find out. It is more elegant to pontificate than it is to sweat," London editor Harry Evans said on capping a brilliant Sunday Times career. His 14-year stint saw the Times break story after story, including one on the plight of British thalidomide children. The Times unmasked Kim Philby as a Soviet spy.

Evan's comment resonates here. Too little hard-nosed reporting swamps us with a glut of media pontification. Columns, specially radio blocktime "commentaries," keel over from allegation overload. Shrillness is directly proportional to lack of research.

"Shallowness is a silent rot," a Sun Star editorial noted. "Daily, it corrodes the soul of our craft. Our liberties can be killed by a thousand cuts of tawdry sloppiness. The most pressing need is for depth, not chutzpah."

Like the next man, journalists are partial toward loafing. But there is life beyond sound bytes. And more of us must sweat and dig into "unglamorous" issues. Penury means more to this country than yet another of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's partisan harangues. Hunger, population, education, disease, among others, break lives and hopes.

There are hurdles to relevant coverage. Dense technical jargon hedge key reports, like the Family Income and Expenditure Survey, the national budget, Commission on Audit reports, the National Nutrition Survey, etc. This induces the mine-eyes-glaze-over ("mego") syndrome not only in journalists but officials, too.

Cebu's Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey, for example, tracked 3,080 mothers and their children over the last 24 years. Data from this study done by the University of San Carlos Office of Population Studies anchored the World Bank policy on early child development and worldwide immunization programs. Researchers from Russia, Brazil, Guatemala and Egypt, tapped into it. "Second wave data" today document a startling rise in obesity among Filipino women. A "nutritional transition" among kids is occurring.

"This study puts Cebu at the cutting edge of international research," North Carolina University's Linda Adair said. But in all of 24 years, Cebu officials never asked what it meant, although the data show that fat and sugar have surged in Cebuano youngsters' diets. There's a marked susceptibility to chronic diseases, like hypertension, type-2 diabetes and heart disease.

To retain relevance, journalists must report on "deep-running currents"—trends that swirl below the surface and impact on human lives and society's structures. Individuals and institutions have done this task.

INQUIRER's Solita Monsod and Cielito Habito, and Leonor Briones, for example, unlock dense economic data and pinpoint the significant in readable ways. Before it fell on hard times, the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism ripped apart the mansions of Joseph Estrada's concubines, plus his understated Statements of Assets and Liabilities.

"Columns unsupported by reporting tend to lack vitality and authority," the Economist noted. Nonetheless, some journalists doggedly insist that their constitutional right to pontificate exempts them from the sweaty chore of digging, then cross-checking.

This results in a journalism of assertion, rather than verification, notes Bill Kovacs of Harvard University's Nieman Foundation. "A journalism of unfiltered assertion is not vetted by the discipline of reporting and editing," he explained. "It [is unable to separate] fact from spin, argument from innuendo."

This tension is felt sharply in coverage and comment on crucial national issues, like hunger. "Plenty sits still. But hunger is a wanderer," the old saying goes. Yet, in her State of the Nation Address, President Macapagal-Arroyo polished off the problem of hunger in one short sentence, while jamming into the address a roll call of politicians, from Batanes to Jolo, who backed her projects. How does one explain such inattention?

The number of hungry people crested at a "new record-high of 21 percent," reports one of the more knowledgeable analysts of hunger, Social Weather Station's Mahar Mangahas. He doesn't just measure degrees of hunger. In his INQUIRER column, he explains the scientific data in language that is easy to grasp. "The head count of moderate hunger of the poor (*mahirap*) is stable, or even falling," he wrote. "But at the same time, the numbers of the hungry (*gutom*) are rising."

To trigger action, scientist and journalist must etch a human face on impersonal data, Mangahas adds. Cold statistics on sugarfield *sacadas* took on flesh and blood after Jesuit scholastic Arsenio Jesena wrote of his life among them. Nial O'Brien described Negros' penury in farm worker Nanding: "He lays out the bodies of his two daughters, Margarita and Benilda, on top of a wooden box. When I came nearer, I realized they were not wearing dresses. It was crêpe paper."

These triggered resolutions to grapple decisively with poverty then. So did Mang Pandoy, who in 1992 offered to be shot if someone gave his family P100,000. So did the suicide of dirt-poor Mariannet Amper of Davao this year. Why did these resolutions fizzle?

Is it because we are a people being trucked to the poor house by corrupt leaders while anesthetized by noontime soaps and "Wowowee" entertainment? What do sustained dosages of pop stars and dance steps do to us?

"Do we end up as good people, who are not very deep?" Fr. Ron Rolheiser asks. "Not bad, just busy. Not immoral, just distracted. Not lacking in soul, just preoccupied. Not disdaining depth, just lacking in practice."

As the noontime cry puts it, all too ready to yell: "*Abante ako!*"

* * *

E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com

Heroes too

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

BANTAYOG NG MGA BAYANI HAS FOUR NEW names on its Wall of Remembrance. They are Lino Brocka, Rizal Yuyitung, Aloysius Baes and Nicanor Solana. They are inspired choices.

Brocka I knew personally and admired a great deal, both as artist and as human being. He was, of course, the most widely known Filipino director abroad, having produced films that pricked the conscience not just of this country but of the world. He wasn't unlike Frank Capra in his firm belief in the egalitarian idea, specifically the capacity of the masses to make good, if not right, choices. He left this earth ages ago, though it always seems just like last week. He died in a car accident in 1991 at the prime of life and at the height of his powers.

Yuyitung was a famous name in my time. Rizal and his brother Quentin were the editors of the Chinese Commercial News, which catered to the local Chinese community. They were accused of being sympathizers of what was then called "Red China," and were harassed by two administrations. Those were the administrations of Diosdado Macapagal, which arrested the Yuyitungs and detained them briefly, and Ferdinand Marcos, which kidnapped them and deported them to Taiwan. Their crime simply consisted of publishing news often from the Western wires themselves. Alas, truth has always been subversive in these parts. The brothers were later released and went on to live in Canada. Rizal died early this year.

The last two I also knew, just by name. I never had the fortune to meet Baes though I knew of him. He was a scientist and activist, and proved that the two concepts, far from being oil and water were hand in glove. He was jailed during martial law for joining the resistance against it. After Edsa, he resumed his chemistry studies in the United States, and earned his doctorate there. He saw in this not an excuse to build a comfortable life for himself but a reason to serve the people more. His engagements testified to it: the campaign to get the United States to clean up the toxic wastes in the former Clark Air Base, the exposé of the Marinduque oil spill, membership in the Rapu-Rapu Commission, the investigation of the Guimaras oil spill. Baes died of kidney failure last Christmas at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute.

Nick Solana I used to hear about because he went to the same school I did, though a couple of years earlier. He was one of the Ateneo de Manila martyrs, activists who went on to take up arms against martial law and died in the flush of youth. He was ambushed in 1975 in Davao Oriental. Unfortunately, I never met him. But I did meet some of the other Ateneo martyrs who died at the hands of the enemy at about the same time and I see his face in them. The loss isn't just to their parents, it is to their country.

The addition of the four to the Wall of Remembrance, a grand monument to remind a forgetful people of why they enjoy their freedoms, strikes me as inspired for a couple of reasons.

The first is that all of them restore the luster to the word "activist." All of them were so, even Brocka. He was a passionate believer in human rights and civil liberties and made it a point to reflect it in his films. For him, human rights were not a luxury of existence, they were essential to it, and he was as much affected by them emotionally as intellectually—something often lost in today's human rights advocacy, which lacks the heart to go with the mind. I recall that the one thing that rocked him to the pit of his soul some years before he died was the picture of hooded figures pointing out the presumed communists among the Leyte refugees huddled at the Philippine College of Commerce, which reminded him of the Kalibapi during the Japanese occupation. He would later exorcise it with "Orapronobis."

These were people who did not just say, "Let's move on," in the face of iniquity, these were people who said, "Enough!" and tried to stop the madness. They were driven to right wrongs by the very fact that they existed, and did so in the ways they best knew how: Brocka through his movies, the Yuyitungs through their newspaper, Baes through his field work, and Solana through armed struggle, the most potent arms he bore being those of youthful idealism. These were people who refused to ignore tyranny but raised a clenched fist at it while helping build a new world with their art and their science. Which is really what an activist means in the best sense of the word.

The second reason their choice is inspired is that it says something profoundly important about the nature of heroism. Which is that heroism is not a question of how you die, it is a question of how you live. Except for Solana, none of the four died in a hail of fire. Brocka died in a car accident, Yuyitung in the ripeness of his years, Baes by disease. Yet they are no less heroic for doing so. It is the loftiness of their life that defines them, not the banality of their death.

That should be especially meaningful for a country that has driven the line in the National Anthem, "Ang mamatay ng dahil sa 'yo (To die for you)," to absurd lengths. I've always said maybe it was time we changed that line to "Ang mabuhay ng dahil sa iyo (To live for you)." For too long have we believed that the essence of patriotism, the essence of freedom, the essence of heroism is dying for the country. Well, maybe it does come to that at some point, but first there's the matter of living for it. We've always been good at dying for the country; we've never been good at living for it. We think nothing of risking life and limb to topple a tyranny; we do nothing to build a new world in its place.

Except for a few, like Brocka, Yuyitung, Baes, Solana. People who devoted a lifetime to serving the people. People who deserve to be called:

Heroes.

Locsin asks for list of behest loans

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE FACT THAT THE TWO OLDEST POLITICAL parties, the Liberal and Nacionalista parties, have started building up for 2010 augurs well for the country's political stability. Sen. Mar Roxas assumed the LP presidency last week, preparatory to becoming its candidate in 2010. The Nacionalista Party led by Senate President Manuel Villar has summoned leaders across the country to unite in preparation for 2010, with him presumably as its presidential candidate. Both billionaire candidates are already spending time and funds for political projection. From hereon, members of both parties will be shooting down politically coup plotters and destabilizers who would seek to stop the inexorable march to 2010.

* * *

But the LP continues to be rent by factionalism. Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, who heads one faction, decried that he was not invited to the Club Filipino gathering. Antique Gov. Salvacion Z. Perez, who's identified with his faction, said that while she was invited, after she learned Atienza wasn't, she did not go anymore since the unity call would be hollow. One reason LP unity remains elusive is that the faction identified with its former president, Franklin Drilon, and now Roxas, remains staunchly opposed to President Macapagal-Arroyo. Drilon called in July 2005 for GMA to resign and Atienza claimed it was "unauthorized," creating the split. One observer noted that "*sa* invocation *pa lang ni* Sen. Rodolfo Biazon last week, *binanatan na agad si* GMA." This would make the re-joining of Atienza, Perez and others with GMA quite untenable.

If Roxas wants to capture the presidency, the first order of the day is to put his house in order. Apart from uniting the LP, he has to unite his native Region 6. At Club Filipino, only two governors out of the six showed up together with only two House members.

* * *

The Presidential Commission on Good Government order to revive the Landoil case against Speaker Jose de Venecia and look into its behest loan is being viewed by his allies as pure political harassment. It's difficult not to come up with this conclusion. I had occasion in 1995 to look at this issue when the INQUIRER requested me to interview JDV as it negotiated a settlement with him of his P30-million libel suit. I immediately saw that the "behest" loan obtained by Landoil from PhilGuarantee, which the latter eventually paid to creditors abroad, was not typical of behest loans during the Marcos regime. I noted that many Marcos cronies used government funds to set up companies and later ran away with the money. But Landoil was put up by JDV in the 1970s mainly with borrowings from private sources abroad. Borrowing was not difficult, as it was so successful, employing nearly 50,000 Filipinos in the Middle East. But its success tempted Marcos to muscle his way in. He obtained 40 percent of its shares, paying them with Bataan agricultural land, which Landoil found totally useless. When it began to run into financial trouble after being mired in the Iran-Iraq war, Marcos ordered PhilGuarantee to negotiate for a $120-million loan abroad with government guarantee. Much of it was used to extricate tens of thousands of Filipinos from the war zone. Landoil assigned its debt papers to the government and until today that claim remains with the International Claims Commission.

* * *

The other day, Makati Rep. Teddyboy Locsin issued a statement in the House, saying that the revival of the Landoil issue should be a good opportunity "to reopen the entire behest loan issue." He argued that unlike Landoil, which operated as the "biggest and most prestigious Philippine overseas company" but lost everything because of the Middle East war, "most other behest loans with sovereign guarantees were outright stolen by their Marcos crony behest borrowers." Whereas Landoil was "at least a 'sweetheart deal' with sincere affection and genuine effort to make it work, until a major war intervened," he said, most Marcos behest loans were "one night stands and brazenly abusive affairs (where) the behest borrowers just took and took, with only the thinnest pretense of justification." Since some of those borrowers are still around to answer for their fiscal misdeeds, Locsin asked the House to acquire from the PCGG and other government agencies a complete and detailed list of all these borrowers and their loans. "The people will never see their money again, but they should at least know who raped them in the dark of martial law," he said.

I agree.

* * *

The world-renowned exhibition, "World Religions—Universal Peace—Global Ethic," opens in the Philippines tomorrow, Nov. 30, until Dec. 10, 2007, and no one should miss it. The result of close collaboration between the Global Ethics Foundation of Tubingen, Germany, Konrad Adenaeur Stiftung and the Malaysian Interfaith Network over the past four years, it's based on a lifetime research by famed theologian Hans Kung, as well as the inputs of many other international experts and representatives from all religious backgrounds. Accompanying the exhibition is Peter Schier, a graduate of Peking University and Free University of Merlin and an independent consultant in common values education and interreligious and inter-ethnic relations and conflict prevention. He has authored several books and numerous articles on the subject.

Following is the schedule of the exhibition: Nov. 30, Waterfront Insular Hotel in Davao; Dec. 1, Entertainment Plaza, SM Mall, Davao; Dec. 3-5, Music Hall, Mall of Asia, Pasay City; Dec. 6, Manny Pangilinan Student Center, Ateneo University, QC; Dec. 7, Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, UST, and Dec. 10, Southeast Asian Forum on Islam and Democracy, Centennial Hall B., Manila Hotel.

An apology to Dr. Alfredo Bengzon

Human Face

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

A SUPPOSED-TO-BE FEEL-GOOD SUNDAY FEATURE that I wrote (INQUIRER, 11/25/07) turned out to be a feel-bad thing, not just for the persons and institutions concerned but also for me, as well. I made a mistake—not deliberate, of course—and I am sorry.

The front-page story was on the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health's (ASMPH) bold move in medical education ("Ateneo graduates in 5 years MDs and MBAs") which is something unprecedented. The story went well until the last portion where I wrote: "Bengzon, an Atenean who finished medicine at the University of the Philippines, recalls speaking at his alma mater and saying that UP had become a staging area for doctors 'tailor-made to be exported abroad.'"

Dr. Bengzon, ASMPH dean, denies having said that "UP had become a staging area for doctors 'tailor-made to be exported abroad.'"

I must state here that it caused him pain and embarrassment. UP is, in fact, helping ASMPH by providing the needed faculty. The Ateneo, UP and La Salle university systems have, among themselves, a memorandum of agreement on sharing of faculty. UP itself has, in fact, created a medical curriculum that exposes their graduates to health problems in poor communities and the systemic and structural problems in society that affect people's health.

After Dr. Bengzon and I had gone over what transpired during the three-hour-or-so conversation/interview some months ago where he talked about ASMPH, I agree that I had misquoted him and taken his statements out of context. He had spoken about medical schools' curricula, the mismatch of the training of doctors and the realities in society and "staging areas" for societal reforms and health outcomes. He spoke about doctors not just as clinicians but as managers and leaders who would be catalysts of change in society. And so the training of doctors should not simply remain in the curative mode but should be preventive as well, with doctors-managers-leaders helping to address the "disconnection" between sick individuals and a sick society.

Dr. Bengzon, a former secretary of health and chief negotiator representing government on the staying or removal of the US bases, is not just a medical doctor, he is also a manager. He has a master's degree in business administration and is CEO of The Medical City, the training hospital of ASMPH.

But let me explain how that wayward quote came about. I had the jargon mixed up in my notes and thought that when Dr. Bengzon recalled speaking at UP during the centennial celebration, the issue of UP's medical graduates going on an exodus for foreign lands was something he brought up. What candor, I thought, that this UP alumnus would say this, no holds barred, to his alma matter. That was the reason I thought a quote like that would not cause a stir. A quote which, in my stupidity, I thought and believed I heard.

While doctors leaving the Philippines in droves is an issue, Dr. Bengzon clarified that this issue is not exclusive to graduates of any teaching medical institution. And he was not singling out UP. And I say this: He was not out to single out UP to make Ateneo look good.

I had spoken to UP-Manila chancellor Dr. Ramon Arcadio to help clear the air and the soft-spoken chancellor told me that he tried to take the wayward quote with humor. Like, UP's medical graduates must be that good that they "are tailor-made for export."

The quote did not sit well with UP's faculty and Dr. Bengzon suddenly found himself under fire. And it was not his fault. The fault was mine.

I am a graduate of the Ateneo myself and I would not want to jeopardize my alma mater's relationship with another great institution of learning.

I hope to make something positive out of this, like doing a story on the state of medical education in the Philippines. Many medical schools, I am told, deserve to be padlocked.

I believe we could find a way to turn a bad situation into something positive. Like when my car was stolen, I wrote a long investigative series on carnapping, carjacking, "chop-chop," people and institutions in cahoots, etc.

I am sorry, I apologize. I have a good reputation as a journalist. I am not a careless journalist who would invent and put words into people's mouths, or unnecessarily pit one person against another or cause unnecessary pain or embarrassment. But I make mistakes, too. This is a humbling experience but this does not mean I will be treading on eggs from now on or freeze in my tracks.

I would have wanted to tackle in today's column piece UP's ladder-system School of Health Sciences in the provinces and the Ateneo Professional School's Leaders for Health Program, but these two trail-blazing efforts deserve a bigger space. So next week, this will be.

* * *

ICOMOS (International Council for Monuments and Sites) is holding a meeting in Banaue from Dec. 2 to 8, and has invited international heritage experts to the Philippines for the first time to discuss conservation and the socio-economic issues. INQUIRER columnist Augusto Villalon is Philippine chair of the ICOMOS executive committee in Paris. On top of the agenda are the endangered Rice Terraces of the Cordilleras, a Unesco-inscribed World Heritage Site. Endangered because of physical deterioration and because the resident population that has always maintained the site is having difficulty with the preservation job in this 21st century. International experts will present case studies showing steps taken in other world sites with similar issues.

Preserving heritage would be a lost cause unless it is made relevant to the host communities and becomes part of development and income generation.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Indians show the way to forest conservation

Commentary

F. C. Payumo

RECENTLY I READ IN A TRAVEL MAGAZINE about how the Amazon Indians are using Google Earth, Global Positioning System (GPS) and other technologies in protecting their rainforest and preserving their history and cultural traditions. Curious to know more, I logged on to Google and learned that the Surui Indians and other tribes are aided by improved satellite images not only in keeping tabs on loggers and miners but also in cataloguing medicinal plants, hunting grounds, ancestral cemeteries and sacred sites.

"We want people to know that these territories are not just empty swaths of green as seen by satellite, but the homes, supermarkets, museums, libraries of a people who depend on these areas for their survival," said Vasco van Roosmalen of the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT). "Google Earth is used primarily for vigilance. Indians log on and study images, inch by inch, looking to see where new gold mines are popping up or where deforestation is occurring. We offered the Google Earth team a list of coordinates where it would be helpful to have sharper images."

I wondered if we could do the same thing in our country. So I clicked on Google Earth and zoomed in on the Subic and Bataan forest. While I could see clearly the airport and buildings in Subic and had fun looking for the rooftop of my house, huge areas of the Bataan forest were a blur. And they were not real-time images (there was not even a trace of the ongoing Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway construction). But I am sure the government or the World Wildlife Fund can ask Google Earth for updated and sharper images just like ACT did for the Amazon Indians.

I also went to the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria) to ask how we use satellite images. I was told that we have infra-red maps which can be a powerful tool in protecting our environment. But we have not seen the Department of Environment and Natural Resources or the local officials use them. To begin with, the maps cover only certain areas and are not updated. It was only the Bataan forests that had images taken both in 1989 and 2002, but none in 2007.

Still, the snapshots show graphically what occurred over 12 years around Mt. Natib and Mt. Mariveles. The infra-red images show the thick vegetation in crimson color. Since it takes a trained eye to spot the changes, I asked a helpful officer of Namria to point out the areas of degradation by encircling them. He encircled a total of seven areas that had been deforested.

Wouldn't these and similar images of the country's protected areas serve the cause of environment protection if posted yearly in the provincial, municipal and barangay halls, and published in newspapers rather than kept in government archives? More eyes watching—from the public, the NGOs, etc.—will put pressure on the DENR and local officials from the provincial down to the barangay level. A performance-based evaluation can be done more objectively with these images than with any self-serving reports from the forest rangers or ground patrols.

This can be a practical contribution to the Conference on Climate Change held in Albay by Gov. Joey Salceda. Although the Philippines is not in the league of the United States, Europe or China in terms of carbon emission, it is one of the most threatened among the world's biodiversity hotspots. And since, according to Conservation International, deforestation is responsible for one-fourth of all greenhouse gas emission—more than double the amount from the world's cars and trucks—it is through forest conservation that we can contribute to the fight against global warming.

The Amazon Indians have shown us the way. Whether in harnessing the benefits of satellite, cyberspace or the airwaves, we can emulate how they employ technology. Our officials want to spend P16 billion for the National Broadband Network and P24 billion for Cyber Education, while the Amazon tribes make use of satellite services for their rainforest protection free. And Google Earth is more than happy because it reaps good publicity.

We read that the Department of Transportation and Communications, after having abandoned the ZTE deal, is still bent on spending money for the broadband by inviting the telcos to bid. I thought the issue is precisely whether or not the government needs to have a dedicated connectivity, given that private communications backbones already serve 98 percent of the population.

With respect to the use of technology in education, why spend P18 billion of the total P24 billion CyberEd budget for separate connectivity alone? Why not make use of the other NBN—the government NBN-4 television station—to broadcast the lectures of so-called expert teachers? An hour a day, five days a week should be set aside by the station to telecast such lectures not only to the students in schools but to the out-of-school youth and adults in their homes. If the content is anywhere close to the quality of the programs of Knowledge Channel, this distance-learning program would even help push the government TV channel's rating one notch up!

In the areas not reached by NBN-4, there are the 1,501-strong cable TV operators to play the DVDs in their community channels. Finally, to the very few remaining schools that are too remote to be reached either by regular or cable TV, DVDs of the lectures can be sent.

Is this an Indian solution? Maybe, but that's what we need.

F. C. Payumo was a three-term congressman from Bataan and former chair/administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Fast and easy

Young Blood

Amante

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO I CRASHED INTO A DEEP AND dark pit. Everything just went too fast.

Diane and I were both suffering from a breakup in the middle of October that year. We had been dumped by our exes for the same reason: a third party. We were both aware of what was happening with the other. She was my classmate, like her ex, and ours was such a small world we just knew what was the latest about whom. Thanks to our friendship, we shared each other's story.

Before we noticed it, we became close. Perhaps it was our identical fate that brought us closer. Each time we talked about our "similarity," we seemed to understand each other.

Then came the semestral break. Most of the time, we were either on the phone or our hands were busy texting. And boy was I so glad, because I never really imagined that we would turn out to be that way. For almost two years, she was confined to one man. I never got a chance to talk to her about personal matters, if I remember correctly.

Before the semestral break was over, she became my girlfriend. Our courtship lasted less than a week, if you want to know.

When classes resumed, I thought everything would be just fine. I had a new girlfriend whom I loved very much, and I was inspired to put more effort into my studies. There was nothing more I could ask for. I was very happy.

But I forgot that in every story, there are villains. In this case, it was Alex, the guy with whom Diane had a relationship for almost two years before me and who had dumped her for another girl. Now, he had changed his mind and was making a comeback.

One night, this guy called me on the phone to offer a deal. Prior to that, Diane had told me that no matter what happened, I should never give her back to Alex. Of course, I promised her that I wouldn't. I don't know what came over me, but I gave in to Alex's request. I was so dumb to let him have her back, at least until their second anniversary. I was thinking that it would only be for a month and it was Alex's last request anyway.

Giving in to the deal was actually tantamount to breaking up with Diane. And we almost did. Good thing, Alex backed out the next day.

But just when I thought everything was over between them, the following days proved me wrong. Although Diane and I were having good times together, I couldn't help but feel some doubts about her. I knew they were having conversations behind my back, but as much as possible, I wanted to give her some freedom. Even if I had so many chances of reading Alex's messages on her cell phone, I never did. I must trust her and have faith in her, I told myself.

The next days were hard for me. I was baffled that they were talking again in person. Alex, who used to sit beside her in almost all subjects, was back in his old seat. And he was giving her roses. Something was going on between them.

I wanted to ask Diane's friends if Alex was courting her again, but I knew they wouldn't tell me. They were mad at me for messing up their relationship. I should have asked Diane about it, but I was afraid she might tell me something I didn't want to hear. I was a coward.

Three days before marking the month of our being together, we were in Indang, Cavite, for a three-day bivouac. I was expecting it to be fun, but I was wrong.

During the first night when the rain had stopped, I decided to walk around while everyone seemed busy preparing for dinner. That was when I saw Diane and Alex engaged in a very serious conversation in one corner. They seemed to be having an argument. For some reason, my girlfriend's face was contorted.

I decided to go inside the officers' tent and joined my fellow officers in the Citizens Army Training course in taking a rest. A few minutes later, Diane came in. She whispered that she would explain everything to me later, and then went out again.

I was puzzled. My heart started beating so fast that I could almost hear it.

When they were done talking, I went to her. I barely remember now our conversation, but essentially what she told me was that my place on her heart was being threatened by Alex. She said she was confused; letting go of a two-year relationship was just so hard for her to do.

I can't remember if I uttered a word in reply. The next thing I knew, I was crying in front of her. It was hard for me to believe that I won't have her anymore. It would still be Alex whom she would choose. I hugged and kissed her, and then walked away, not daring to look back.

My good friends came to comfort me. I almost cried again, but I thought better of it. I decided that moving on was the best thing for me to do. It was the end of the line. We were done with each other.

I don't regret anything that happened to us. I don't think she just used me to make Alex jealous and make him go back to her. I am not the type people would consider as "*panakip-butas*." I would like to believe that we happened to love each other at the wrong time.

I hated Diane for a couple of weeks. But then I came to realize that she had taught me a lot of things. She taught me that love can come fast and easy, but no one really knows whether or not it will go on and continue to grow. Some good things simply never last.

Amante, 16, is a sophomore at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños.

Notice to Youngblood contributors:

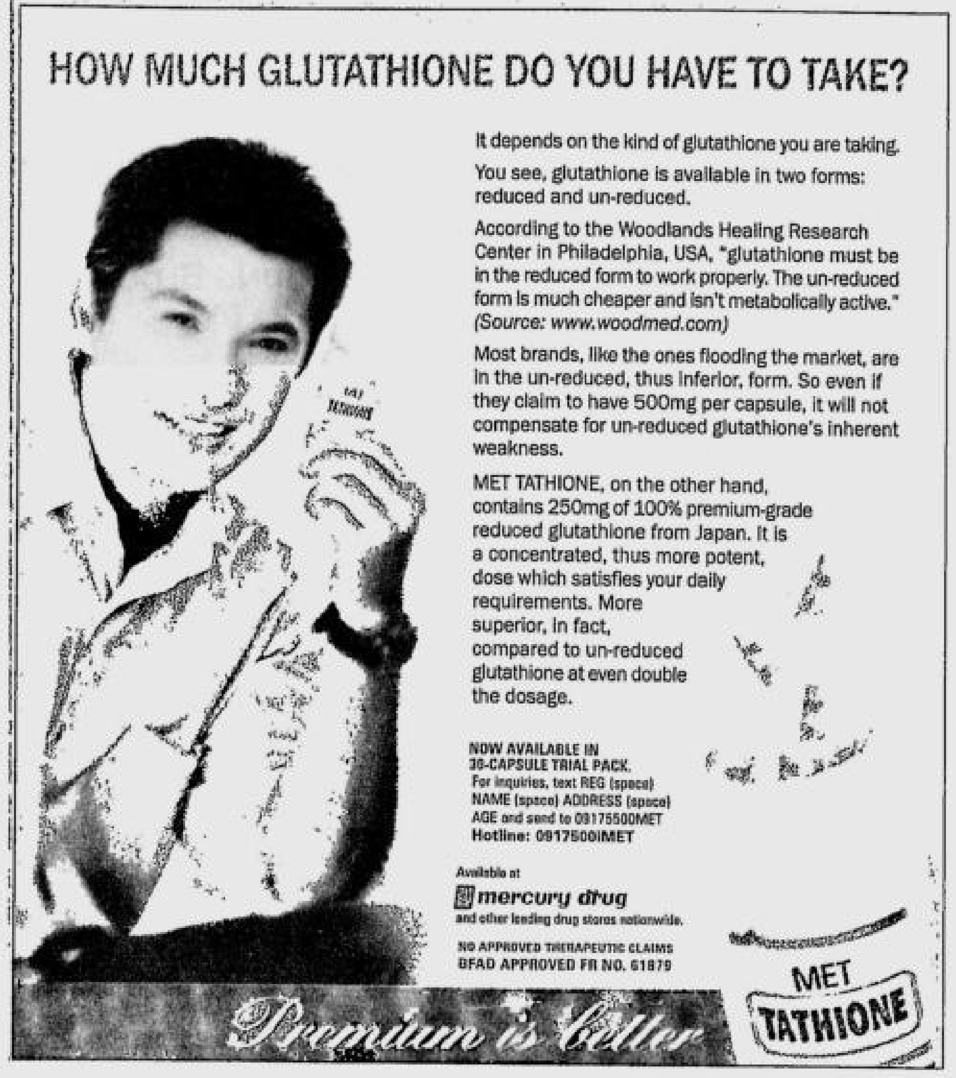
Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

They Said

Worse than Marcos

"[President Macapagal-Arroyo] is worse than [the late dictator Ferdinand] Marcos. At least Marcos took pains to camouflage the raids on the public treasury and the violation of the Constitution by legal subterfuges. But this particular administration does not care for legal niceties. She cannot just put government money in a paper bag and give it away to anybody."

—Senate minority leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., on reports that paper bags containing money were distributed to local officials in Malacañang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Old 'trapo' practice

WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio exposed the P500,000 "cash gift" he received in Malacañang last Oct. 11. With his exposé, there is now an opportunity to study and change some old-fashioned and corrupt political practices.

Panlilio said he didn't consider the "gift" a bribe; he just wanted to know what the money was for because it didn't come with a receipt or through the regular process. Some Palace officials quickly said there was nothing wrong with the money. Some politicians, who are close to the President, even justified the "gift-giving" as funds meant for community projects in their respective provinces.

I don't want to judge those politicians, but hadn't Panlilio exposed the gift-giving, how could their constituents tell that they would indeed use the money for provincial projects? Is there really nothing irregular with giving away paper bags containing as much as P500,000? Can't we find something wrong with the manner the money was distributed to local officials?

Agree with me or not, but I think the money was meant to buy the "loyalty" of the local executives to President Macapagal-Arroyo and was given to them for their personal use. I remember that when I ran in the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections some years ago, the incumbent mayor asked each SK group endorsed by the barangay chair to go to meetings organized by city hall. I had the impression that the first was just "an acquaintance meeting," but we were surprised when, as the meeting was about to end, each group was given P5,000. No explanation was given. It happened again after the barangay elections in 2002, when I ran for the position of barangay kagawad, we were given P5,000 each by the office of the mayor. Yes, money was given every time we attended seminars that our local government organized.

We have a new mayor now. But not much has changed. Each candidate in this year's barangay elections was told to go to city hall to get their money—P1,000 for the kagawad and P2,000 for the chair. Again, there was no explanation for the "generosity."

These experiences gave me the idea that this could be one reason some politicians believe there's nothing irregular with the huge but unreceipted "project allocations" disbursed at the Palace last Oct. 11. There's nothing wrong with it? How would the public know where the money would end up? To be sure, the manner by which the cash gifts were given could tempt a politician to just keep the money for himself/herself. The practice should be stopped. Politicians are getting used to such "gifts" that neither do any good to their constituents nor go to any government project.

—BONG DE LEON,
72 Nuestra Sra. St.,
6th Avenue, Caloocan City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

A few suggestions from a PDI reader

I AM AN ARDENT READER OF THE INQUIRER, of which I've been a fan for so many years.

Please allow me to make these suggestions/corrections:

1. Christmas is just around the corner and there are times that in place of the word "Christmas," the INQUIRER uses "Xmas," which for me, is a blasphemy.

2. The stock market report is printed in fonts that are too small and unappealing to read.

3. It is not "Kung Hei Fat Choi." It should be "Kiong Hee Huat Chai." Ask the Chinese community in Chinatown for confirmation.

Lastly, the INQUIRER should help advocate changing the name of our country. There was a congressman who suggested the name "Rizal." Imelda Marcos, during the rule of her husband, wanted "Maharlika." She said she wanted (the name of) our country ... to be changed because it is named after King Philip of Spain.

—JIMMY SEMBRANO,
Sen. Enage Street,
Tacloban City

Thank you for your suggestions.—Editors

By 'embracing' Burma, Asean shows true colors

THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN Nations has long been struggling to establish its credibility. And it seems that after 40 years of existence, it still doesn't know what to do with Burma's military junta.

At the recent summit in Singapore, the 10-member group kept Burma's junta in its fold, even as it signed the Asean Charter, which is anchored on the promotion and protection of human rights, among others. The Asean leaders didn't seem to notice the irony. Instead of punishing Burma, the Asean seems bent to spoil Burma.

On Burma's insistence, the Asean abruptly withdrew an invitation to UN envoy Ibrahim Gambari to brief its leaders on Burma. Asean leaders also rejected calls to suspend Burma from the bloc to punish the junta for its brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protesters (that left 15 people dead) and for its refusal to free opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The new Asean Charter states that "to strengthen democracy, enhance good governance and the rule of law, and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, with due regard to the rights and responsibilities of the Member States" is one of its purposes. But by embracing Burma, the Asean shows its true colors.

—CLARENCE SALAZAR,
2516 Int. Legarda St.,
Sampaloc, Manila

Teaching 'sideline'

THIS IS IN REACTION TO CONSUELO SIson's letter about teachers asking their elementary, or even high school, students to contribute money for school projects. (INQUIRER, 11/21/07) It's worse in college.

I've been in college for three years. And I remember one of my professors (of a minor subject) asking us to buy raffle tickets in order for us to pass a certain test in her subject. She required that each one of us took at least two tickets at P20 each.

Worse, the date of the raffle was two months past by the time she "sold" us the tickets! Because we really wanted to pass her subject, we didn't refuse. Imagine how much she must have "earned" from that "enterprise."

Aside from that, since my first year in college, some professors have obliged us to buy their books. Some of us students have fought to put a stop to this practice. But it seems the board of regents doesn't support us although this practice is definitely a form of corruption.

If the teachers won't stop, well, no wonder many of us young people, who are supposed to be the hope of this country, get the impression that it is "ethical" for us to do the same.

—KRISTINE TYROL ROSALES,
2114 NDC Compound,
Road 11, Sta. Mesa, Manila

Destitute families can't afford 'free education'

THIS REFERS TO THE LETTER OF A FORMER principal expressing surprise at a P100-school project. (INQUIRER, 11/21/07)

Ma'am, are you kidding? P100, P50, P250, etc. These are regular contributions at my daughter's public school. These are for various things such as buying a cabinet, painting the room, Girl/Boy Scout activities and anything else that the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) would think of. These are apart from the P10 and other small amounts collected weekly for janitorial services and reproduction of test papers. Not to mention contributions for Christmas, school-year closing and other parties.

Indeed, a truly destitute parent cannot afford the supposedly "free" public school education in our country. That's the reality.

—BARBARA GUALVEZ,
barbs87@yahoo.com

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Govs in cash gifts want ₱10B more

> 'Reyes said the Kilos Asenso and Kalayaan Barangay were meant to provide low-cost funding for their… constituents…'

GOVERNORS WHO HAD ADMITTED TO GIVING AWAY CASH TO colleagues on Oct. 11 in Malacañang yesterday crashed into the ongoing Senate budget deliberations and lobbied senators to restore two controversial funding programs worth a total of P10 billion.

Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, spokesperson of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), led a group of governors in asking senators to return the P7.5-billion Kilos Asenso Para sa Bayan and the P2.5-billion Kalayaan Barangay livelihood funds to next year's budget.

Last month, Reyes and Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, LPP secretary general, announced that the P500,000 cash gift given to governors in Malacañang on Oct. 11 came from the LPP's "capability building project."

The admission came a few days after the LPP, in a full-page advertisement that cost about P200,000, said it "did not, as a whole, receive cash gifts from any Palace functionary" on Oct. 11.

Reyes yesterday told reporters that the Senate had slashed the P10 billion in funds from this year's budget for fear that these would be diverted to bankroll the candidacy of proadministration people in the May elections.

Reyes said the Senate had no reason to delete these fund allocations from next year's budget because no elections were scheduled for next year.

Reyes said the Kilos Asenso and Kalayaan Barangay were projects meant to provide low-cost funding for their loan-starved constituents that they could use as new or additional capital for livelihood projects.

Governors have a stake in these funds because the local government units would provide counterpart funds for those who would avail themselves of the money.

Reyes assured the senators that the funds would go through several councils before these would be released to check any abuses.

Reyes was accompanied by 22 other governors, who met with several senators, including Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, chair of the committee on finance.

The governors also used their presence in the Senate as proof of their willingness to cooperate with the Senate investigation into the cash gifts distributed in Malacañang.

The LPP claimed that the P500,000 cash gift given to Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio and Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza came from the group's kitty. Reyes said the governors were prepared to answer all questions regarding the cash gift, including the source and reason when the Senate resumed its probe.

President Macapagal-Arroyo met separately in Malacañang with congressmen and governors on Oct. 11 for an agenda that had remained unclear until now.

Cash ranging from P20,000 for mayors and up to P500,000 for governors were handed out to the local officials on the day they met with Ms Arroyo. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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NEWSBRIEFS

Ex-rebel shot dead

BALANGA CITY—A former New People's Army rebel was shot and killed on Nov. 22 by a lone man while he was on his way to his piggery in Samal town, police said.

Eduardo Magtanong, 45, a former political organizer of Orani Mayor Benjamin Serrano and now caretaker of the town's public market, was going to his farm in Barangay San Juan at 5:30 a.m. when the he was shot in the head, chest and knees.

Magtanong was a former leader of the Bataan NPA of north district guerrilla unit in the 1980s.

Greg Refraccion, Inquirer Central Luzon

Cagayan Valley wage hike

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Cagayan Valley tripartite wages and productivity board has approved a P5 daily basic wage increase effective Nov. 25.

The board denied the request of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines for a P100 increase, saying that much money might force the closure of many establishments in the region.

In Cagayan, non-agriculture and agriculture workers will receive daily wages of P220 and P211; Isabela, P223 and P211; Nueva Vizcaya, P216 and P204; and Quirino and Batanes, P215 and P203.

Estanislao Caldez, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Isabela dad shot dead

ALICIA, Isabela—A three-term town councilor was shot and killed on Nov. 22 by two motorcycle-riding men in front of a grocery store in Barangay Antonino here, police said.

Primo Dasig Sr., 55, was putting his purchases in his car when the men shot him at close range. Police said one of the killers also stabbed Dasig.

Dasig's son Primo Jr., said his father had been an outspoken opposition member at the town council. He said his father had been receiving death threats since April.

Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

Lingayen ferry service seen

DAGUPAN CITY—If plans do not miscarry, ferry boats will soon be plying the Lingayen Gulf from San Fernando City in La Union to Dagupan and Alaminos cities in western Pangasinan.

Mayor Alipio Fernandez Jr. said he had initial talks with Alaminos Mayor Hernani Braganza, who initiated the project, and San Fernando Mayor Pablo Ortega.

He said a technical working group had been formed to map out details of the proposed ferry service.

Aside from boosting the three cities' tourism industry, Fernandez said the project would provide employment opportunities for Dagupeños.

Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Appeal on seashell ban

SORSOGON CITY—City and village officials publicly ate mussels here in a gesture of support for fishermen's appeal to the government to lift the ban on the gathering of seashells.

The fishermen said the ban had deprived them of their main livelihood.

The ban was imposed in October last year after a series of fatal red tide poisoning cases.

Roger Pareja, village chief of Cambulaga where the majority of the residents are *tahong* farmers, said his constituents had long been suffering from the loss of livelihood, prompting many of them to leave home to look for menial jobs elsewhere.

Councilor Dave Duran, chair of the city council's committee on environment, said the government must be flexible in its imposition of the ban which, he added, must not cover all types of seashell.

Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Baguio mayor vetoes ₱19-M car plan for councilors

BAGUIO CITY—MAYOR REInaldo Bautista Jr. has vetoed a council resolution granting top city officials P19.5-million to finance their car plan.

The controversial resolution, which reached Bautista's desk only on Monday, allocates funds out of the city's share from the 2006 internal revenue allotment to buy a service vehicle for each of the 14 councilors.

But Bautista said his decision would cause friction between his office and the councilors.

"This is my first veto [of a council measure] during my term…" said Bautista.

"What is a car plan? It's like going to a bank, to get them to finance a new car [on your behalf], which you pay back using your own salary… the phrase 'car plan' in the resolution is inappropriate," he said.

"I know they need the vehicles. The council only has two service vans and these 8-year-old vehicles are deteriorated. I am only issuing this veto because of the technical anomaly in the resolution."

He said both government lawyers and government accountants had made it clear that mortgaging public funds against a councilor's salary to buy a personal car is illegal.

The council has been criticized for the car plan.

A newly organized crusade called "Baguio First" demanded that the councilors junk the plan. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

3 dead as boats capsize in Taal Lake

POLICE bring in survivors of two boats that capsized in Lake Taal, Talisay, Batangas killing three people.
RAFFY LERMA

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Three people died, six were still missing and 30 others were rescued after two motorboats capsized in Taal Lake in Talisay town in Batangas, on Tuesday night, police said on Wednesday.

Senior Insp. Raymond Mayuga, Talisay police chief, identified the fatalities as Mary Anne Hernandez and Helen Hernandez, both of Barangay Ambulong, Tanauan City; and Josephine Rabon, of Malvar town in Batangas.

Mayuga said fishermen found the 30 surviving boat passengers floating on the lake that night.

Senior Supt. David Quimio, Batangas police director, said search and rescue operations were ongoing for the six missing passengers.

"We're optimistic that we can get the missing persons. We just hope they're still alive," Quimio told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

He said a certain Cherry Hernandez, 27, was the last passenger rescued at about 3:38 a.m.

Quimio said the victims attended a feast in Sitio Pulo, Barangay Bignay, and were on their way to Barangay Sta. Maria at about 7 p.m. when huge waves and strong winds battered their boats.

Mayuga said that despite the bad weather, the boatmen "took the risk."

It was the first such accident in Talisay, he said.

Quimio said that before the boats capsized, the passengers tried to call for help from residents of a nearby coastal village.

SPO1 Mario Cabrera, one of the passengers, fired his gun into the air to catch attention, he said.

Quimio said the rescued passengers survived by holding on to the boats' wreckage.

He said the boats could have been overloaded. *Marlon Ramos and Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Southern Tagalog drivers prepare for transport strike

SAN PABLO CITY—JEEPNEY drivers and operators on Tuesday stayed off selected routes in Southern Tagalog in preparation for a nationwide transport strike to protest rising oil prices.

Members of the Southern Tagalog Region Transport Organization (Starter) started a simultaneous public information drive at major terminals in the region at about 6 a.m.

Rolando Mingo, Starter secretary general, said the campaign was welcomed by transport organizations.

Public utility jeeps were kept off the streets in selected areas in the towns of Biñan, Cabuyao and San Pedro, and in Santa Rosa City.

Streets in Tanauan, Batangas, were also declared strike areas.

Mingo said that this year alone, oil prices increased 16 times, "yet the administration of Ms Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has done nothing."

Among the demands of Mingo's group was the repeal of the Oil Deregulation Law that the protesters blamed for the continuing increase in oil costs.

The militant labor organization Pagkakaisa ng Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan (Pamantik-KMU), of which Starter is a member-organization, expressed full support for the transport strike.

"We are informed of the demands of the transport sector. Workers and their families are, by all means, affected by the ever-increasing prices of petroleum products while wages are pegged to all-time low compared to transport fare and basic commodities," Pamantik chair Romeo Legaspi said.

"Workers in Southern Tagalog are in full support of the preparatory dress rehearsals till the actual nationwide transport strike," Legaspi added. *Romulo O. Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Phil. Sugar Ctr. Bldg., North Ave.,Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 712-3341 to 54 • Fax No. (632) 712-1110
E-mail: www.nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

In Consonance with Republic Act 9184, the National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on **December 21, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **SRA Social Hall, Phil. Sugar Center Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City** among all interested rice suppliers for the supply of 450,000 MT 5% MOLSO 25% brokens long grain white rice, well milled with the following arrival periods:

QUANTITY	ARRIVAL
Minimum 40%	JANUARY 2008
Minimum 30%	FEBRUARY 2008
Balance or 30%	MARCH 2008

Packing shall be in fifty (50) kilograms net each in polypropylene bags suitable for rice export with NFA markings with an appropriated budget of **PESOS: Seven Billion Four Hundred Forty Three Million only (Php 7,443,000,000.00)** from corporate resources.

Source countries shall be Thailand, Vietnam, China, Pakistan, Australia, US and India origin.

All interested suppliers are required to submit quotations in US$/MT, CFR, FO on the basis of Documents against Acceptance (D/A) with a tenor of one hundred twenty (120) days from receipt by NFA of the complete set of original documents required for payment and on the basis of mandatory countertrade and countertrade performed on best effort. Otherwise, bids shall be considered non-responsive. Container shipment will be allowed up to a maximum volume of 50,000 MT only and in Manila, Subic, Cebu, Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, Gen. Santos and Davao only. Maximum quantity to be offered for U.S., Pakistan and/or Australian origin shall be 100,000 MT only and for India – 25,000 MT.

Government and private suppliers who have delivered to the NFA within the last three (3) years (2005, 2006 and 2007) and do not have a bad track record may be awarded the following maximum volume:

GOVERNMENT	350,000 MT (WITH GOOD TRACK RECORD)
	50,000 MT (WITHOUT TRACK RECORD)
PRIVATE	50,000 MT (WITH GOOD TRACK RECORD)
	25,000 MT(WITHOUT TRACK RECORD)

However, suppliers and/or source companies with pending import-related accounts/liability prior 2005 are considered to have bad track record and are not allowed to participate in the bid.

Minimum volume to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 3% of the highest value of offered quantity in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Winning bidders are required to submit a performance bond equivalent to:

a. Government Suppliers - 5%
b. Private Suppliers - 10%

of the value of the awarded quantity within five (5) banking days after receipt of the notice of award in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Non-holders of 2007 Certificate of Eligibility (COE) who are intending to participate shall submit to DMO-FOD from December 03 to December 14, 2007 all updated documents as per checklist of requirements to qualify for the issuance of 2007 Certificate of Eligibility (COE). New entrants are to submit complete documents as per checklist of requirements on December 21, 2007.

List of Eligibility Requirements and Instructions to Bidders may be secured starting **29 November 2007** thru **MR. CARLITO G. GO**, Assistant Department Manager and **MR. NESTOR U. PUANGCO**, Division Chief III, **Directorate for Marketing Operations, 4th Floor, Phil. Sugar Ctr. Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City** with telephone numbers 454-1890; 920-0651.

The terms of reference and offer sheets will be available from **November 29** to **December 19, 2007** except Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays (8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00.

The **pre-bidding conference** will be held on 07 December 2007 at **10:00 a.m.** at the **SRA Social Hall, Phil. Sugar Ctr. Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.**

Submission of bids will be on December 21, 2007 between 8:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. at the **SRA Social Hall, Phil. Sugar Ctr. Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.** Opening of bids will start exactly at **10:00 a.m.**

All bidders are required to read and comply with the Instruction to Bidders.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **LUDOVICO J. JARINA**
Deputy Administrator and
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – November 29, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
AMUSE TECHNOLOGY INC. 1203 Global Tower, Mascardo St., Bangkal, Makati City	Jen-Tse Wong Taiwanese	Sales Manager
SOODA COMMUNICATION LEARNING CENTER INC. 1630 Luis Ma. Guererro St., Malate, Manila	Sunghan Cho Korean	Operations Manager
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Arun Prakash Dixit Indian	Project Analyst
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Sudhansu Lal Indian	System Analyst
S D INTERNATIONAL VENTURES CORP. 317 Antipolo St., Mandaluyong City	Jongmyeong No Korean	Marketing Manager
S D INTERNATIONAL VENTURES CORP. 317 Antipolo St., Mandaluyong City	Sung Dal An Korean	Marketing Manager
GEOSPECIALIST INCORPORATED 168 P. Faustino St., Punturin, Valenzuela City	Baiquan Chen Chinese	Technical Consultant
GEOSPECIALIST INCORPORATED 168 P. Faustino St., Punturin, Valenzuela City	Rougang Wu Chinese	Sales Consultant
PHILSUN INTERNATIONAL IMPORT & EXPORT LTD. CO. 2020 Bambang St., Binondo, Manila	Yuanlan Wang Chinese	Secretary
YUAN HAI TRADING CO. LTD. 790 Leon Guinto St. cor. G. Apacible St., Ermita, Manila	Guoxiao Zhang Chinese	Supervisor
THE THOMSON (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION 20/F Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6811 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Chendie Wang Chinese	Research Analyst
CONSISTEL (PHILIPPINES), INC. Unit 2902 The Orient Square Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Pick Din Lim Singaporean	Consultant
THE DEL ROSARIO DESIGN GROUP, INC. 2/F Maripola Bldg., 109 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Dean Barone American	Consultant
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 25/F Pacific Star Bldg., 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Xudong Feng Chinese	Purchasing Manager
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 25/F Pacific Star Bldg., 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Mingbo Luo Chinese	Technical Manager
JFE CIVIL ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION CORP. Suite 2802 Antel Global Corporate Ctr., Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City	Takamitsu Inoue Japanese	Site Manager for Construction Group
JFE CIVIL ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION CORP. Suite 2802 Antel Global Corporate Ctr., Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City	Seigo Shimada Japanese	General Manager for Construction Group
MERLIN INFORMATION SYSTEMS PHILIPPINES, INC. 4/F Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave. cor. Meralco Ave., Pasig City	Fei Yu Chinese	1st Level Technical Multi-Lingual Helpdesk Agent
PINAY AND PINOY INTERNET CAFE CORP. 406 D. Zamora St. cor. Tenco St., Pasay City	Jagjit Singh Indian	Supervisor
PINAY AND PINOY INTERNET CAFE CORP. 406 D. Zamora St. cor. Tenco St., Pasay City	Jasvir Singh Gill Indian	Asst. Supervisor
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Yitao Zhang Chinese	Project Manager
HYUNDAI ENGINEERING CO., LTD. Unit 905, The Pearlbank Centre, 146 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Kwang Won Ko Korean	Project Manager
JFE CIVIL ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION CORP. Suite 2802 Antel Global Corporate Ctr., Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Kojiro Ishihara Japanese	General Manager and Branch Representative
ORIENTAL SYNERGY MINING CORP. 139 Joy St., Grace Village, Balingasa, Quezon City	Guoli Yu Chinese	Mining Consultant
ORIENTAL SYNERGY MINING CORP. 139 Joy St., Grace Village, Balingasa, Quezon City	Xuan Ma Australian	Mining Consultant
ORIENTAL SYNERGY MINING CORP. 139 Joy St., Grace Village, Balingasa, Quezon City	Benlu Li Chinese	Mining Consultant
ORIENTAL SYNERGY MINING CORP. 139 Joy St., Grace Village, Balingasa, Quezon City	Jingyuan Wei Chinese	Mining Consultant
ORIENTAL SYNERGY MINING CORP. 139 Joy St., Grace Village, Balingasa, Quezon City	Hanyu Yang Chinese	Operation Manager
KOK MING TRADING LTD. CO. Unit 707, 650 Juan Luna Street, Binondo, Manila	Qingqun Lin Chinese	Supervisor
HER IDEAS MANUFACTURING CORP. 402 Yague St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Xiaoyu Shi Chinese	Supervisor
RADOVIL TRADING LTD. CO. 1175 La Torre St., Binondo, Manila	Yongxuan Hong Chinese	Consultant
TAEYOUNG GOLF INC. U-1716 Makati Palace Hotel, P. Burgos St., Makati City	Junsuk Park Korean	General Manager
KAI QI DEVELOPMENT CORP. Unit 706, 7/F Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Pasig City	Yuyu Cai Chinese	Sales Consultant

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Director

(PDI - Nov. 29, 2007)

INQUIRER Southern Luzon
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Laguna grotto houses Lourdes image

By Romulo O. Ponte
San Pablo City

IT TOOK FILIPINO SCULPTOR Floro Olaco of San Pedro, Laguna, three attempts to engrave the exact features of the original Our Lady of Lourdes image in Lourdes, France, so the replica could be placed at the grotto in front of a church in San Pablo City.

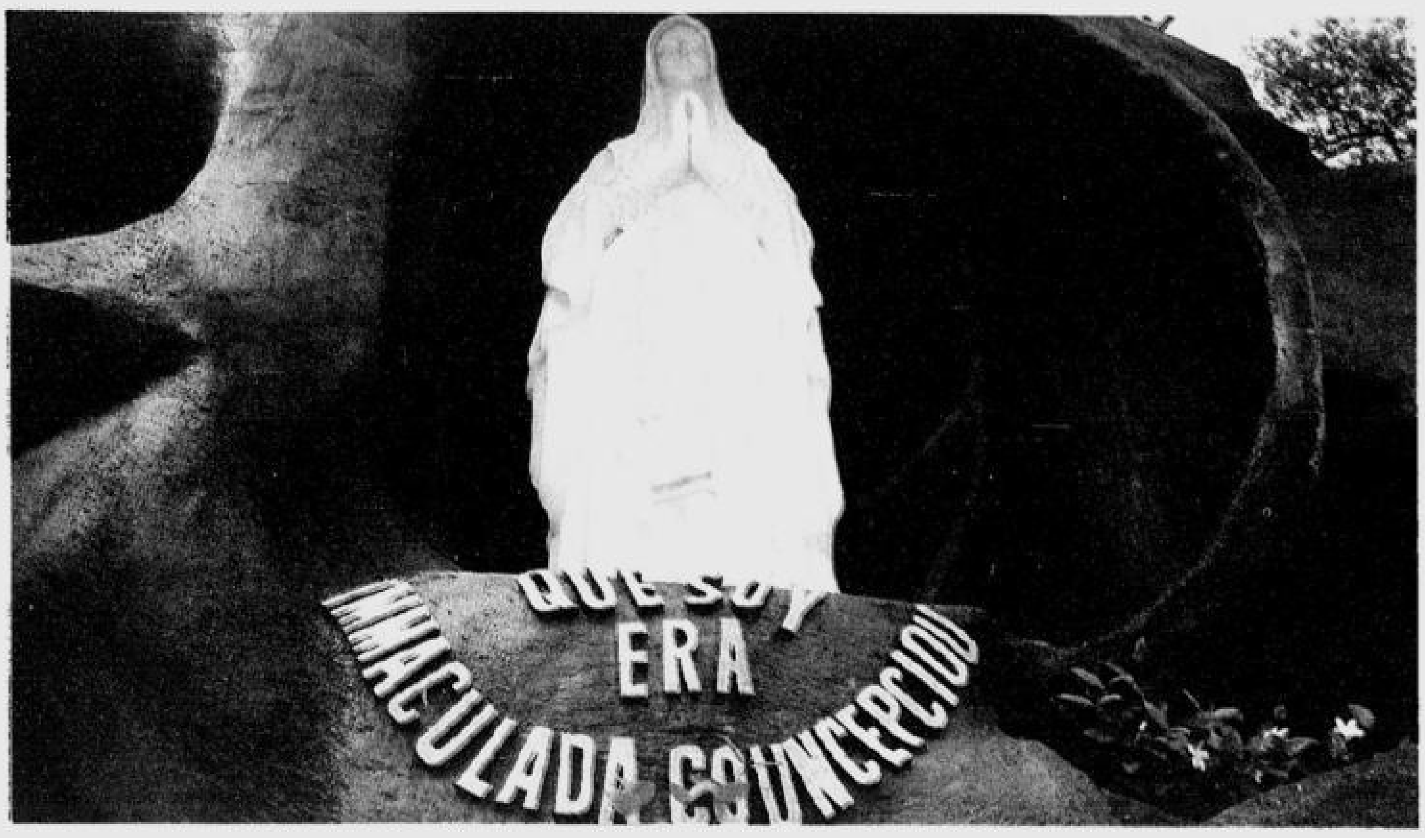
Olaco was contracted by Buenaventura B. Banayo, a British national of Filipino ancestry, to carve the image based on the enlarged photos that Banayo had brought from France.

Banayo intended to place the image at a similar grotto that he had built at the entrance of the San Gabriel the Archangel Parish Church in Barangay San Gabriel.

Olaco had nearly completed the first image when Banayo observed that it was too big for the grotto. A second image was carved but it was too thin.

Finally, the third image "perfectly" duplicates the original.

As he was making some adjustments on the final piece, Olaco accidentally broke the hands of the image. One of his hands swelled for no apparent reason.



OUR LADY of Lourdes grotto at the San Gabriel the Archangel Parish Church in San Pablo, Laguna. ROMULO O. PONTE

"Maybe because I did not ask for permission from the Virgin Mary before I tinkered on her clasped hands (in prayer), the Virgin Mother punished and reminded me for my disrespect," Banayo quoted Olaco as saying.

Despite his swollen hands, Olaco continued to work but very cautiously this time, until he finished the piece.

Unusual

The image is now enthroned at the newly constructed and blessed Grotto of the Our Lady at the San Gabriel church.

While it was being blessed on Nov. 7 by Bishop Leo M. Drona, something unusual happened with the enthroned Madonna.

A sister of the Missionary of the Holy Face of Jesus noticed that the Virgin was smiling. Before the enthronement, according to Banayo, the image had looked quite gloomy.

Banayo expressed gladness that somehow the Blessed Virgin and the grotto had already been touching the people in the parish.

Another "miracle" was the "perfect" multiple heart bypass operation undergone by Banayo's younger brother Meynardo while the grotto was being constructed.

Meynardo, a lay minister in the parish, was instrumental in looking for the right sculptor to make the Blessed Virgin Mary image. He is now recuperating rapidly.

Banayo, 57, has lived in England for 34 years. He migrated there as a student nurse in 1973 and has since worked in several hospitals in the country.

In August 2000, he, his family and sister-in-law visited Lourdes for the first time.

In 2004, he got sick with diabetes and was confined in the hospital. When he was discharged, he again went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes in May 2004.

This time, Banayo promised the Blessed Virgin that he would come yearly. He went there in 2005 and in 2006.

Last year, Banayo got sick again. This prompted him to retire from his job in April.

In his sickbed, he promised God that if He would give him the opportunity to get an image of the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes, he would buy one and bring it to the Philippines.

Banayo finally got back to Lourdes in May.

He immediately looked for an image to buy but could not find one that perfectly matched the original.

He was also told that the image was too heavy (about 300 kilograms) to bring to the Philippines on an airplane.

Banayo began toying with the idea of having an image carved in the Philippines and a grotto to shelter it. At first, he had kept his idea a secret from his family.

Back home

On July 12, Banayo and two of his three sons decided to come home for a two-week visit. His wife Elsie, 48, a certified public accountant, was left home with their eldest son.

When Banayo arrived in San Pablo, he and Meynardo right away talked to the parish priest for the possibility of constructing a Lourdes grotto replica.

He chose a Batangas artist to do the gargantuan job.

Nestor Dimayuga, a Batangas artist, painter, electrician and welder, finished the project after about three months. Banayo had targeted the work to be completed for only two weeks.

The grotto is so dearly close to his heart that he committed himself to personally see to it that it was done the best way it should be.

"I am happy with the outcome of the grotto. I have nothing to say anymore. I hope it will be a source of healing and a means of meditation for my town mates or to anybody who visits it. This is not only for decoration of the church," Banayo said.

"Even if there is only one or two who will be reminded of and contemplate on the sacred apparition of the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes and have a deep religious experience when visiting this place even if this is very far from France, that will already give me contentment," Banayo said.

When he gets back to England and visits Lourdes again, he will bring with him the enlarged photo of the grotto in San Pablo and have it displayed at the foot of the original mountain site in France, he said.

Right after the grotto was blessed and Masses celebrated, Banayo packed up and flew to England on Nov. 11. Anybody can visit the grotto and the image of the Virgin and pray there, and invite a priest to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, he said.

The San Gabriel grotto can be reached by taking the Maharlika Highway and turning toward Teomora Village No. 2 where the San Gabriel the Archangel Parish Church is located. For details, call Aileen at tel. no. (049) 561-2144.

Editor's Note: The author, an INQUIRER correspondent, is the priest of the San Gabriel Parish.

MEDICard - HONDA Cars Kalookan
SIGNING OF
HEALTHCARE PROGRAM AGREEMENT

HONDA Cars Kalookan recently signed the renewal of its healthcare agreement with MEDICard Philippines. (seated L-R) MEDICard's Luis S. Montoya (EVP & GM) and Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya (President) with Honda's Phillippe John Fetalvero (GM & CEO), Jae Elleazer (MIS Mngr.) and Cyril Solidum (Accounting Mngr.) (standing L-R) MEDICard's Dr. Voltaire R. Victoria (Sales & Business Dev't. Mngr.), TSG Life & Health's Evelyn Domingo (Operations Mngr.) and Joan Feliciano (OIC) with Honda's Jophen Rualo (HRMA Supervisor), Yvette delos Santos (HRMA Mngr.), MEDICard's Janice Cortez (Mktg. Asst.), Miguel Cesar Jardiel (Accounts Management Supervisor) and Honda's Theodore Padolina (Service Mngr.).

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Erap flaunts 'carabao English' in visit with pet

From page A1

in a tour purportedly meant to check if he could still draw the crowds and get the votes.

On his longest trip outside Metro Manila since receiving pardon from Malacañang last month, deposed leader and convicted plunderer Joseph Estrada yesterday visited the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) here, considered his single, most successful project during his days as an opposition senator.

"They laughed at me because they thought the law was about (my) carabao English," ousted President Estrada told an amused gathering of PCC employees and farmers, referring to his bill creating the PCC, the Carabao Act of 1992.

Farmers' language

"But that is their problem. They don't understand carabao English, a language spoken by our farmers. But would (these critics) have anything to eat if not for the farmers?" he said.

Before his disgraceful fall, the former movie tough guy also known as "Erap" had deftly turned his mangled English dialogues on-screen into a real-life political charm, often one-liners that have become a staple in his so-called "Eraption" jokes.

It was his first visit to the center since he was ousted six years ago, part of a three-city tour of the Central Luzon province. From Metro Manila, Estrada took a chopper lent by son-in-law Beaver Lopez and continued his itinerary on a motorcade upon arrival in the province.

Calling the PCC his "baby," Estrada noted that the "world-class" center has since been copied by other countries like China.

Super carabao

He reported that the PCC had already raised more than 400 hybrid carabaos. A milk-producing female hybrid can yield up to six liters a day, compared to the native breed which normally produce only about a liter a day, he added.

Estrada said this hybrid could be called the "super carabao."

HE'S STILL PRESIDENT, according to his wristband. REM ZAMORA

"With an expanded carabao program, we can cut by 50 percent our $500-million importation of milk and milk products every year," Estrada said.

He thanked the people who helped nurse his baby while he was "away," mainly PCC executive director Liberato Cruz and former Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani.

In a prepared speech, though, the 70-year-old Estrada indicated he did not come all this way just to pet his favorite farm animal.

At home in Nueva Ecija

The country's biggest graft convict said he also hit the road to "bring (my) case to the people."

Estrada said he had always felt "at home" in Nueva Ecija since this province gave him the biggest number of votes in the region when he ran for President in 1998. He said Novo Ecijanos also gave him overwhelming support when he ran for senator in 1987 and for vice president in 1992.

Earlier in San Jose, Estrada was mobbed by hundreds of schoolchildren when his chopper landed on the open field of the Constancio Padilla National High School.

Wearing a red jacket and his signature white wristband bearing the presidential seal, the opposition leader arrived on the campus at around 9 a.m. From there he toured the city on a motorcade.

At the city gymnasium where he addressed some 300 supporters, Estrada insisted he has no more plans to reenter politics.

Maceda, drumbeater

Yet a constant companion, former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, still floated the idea of Estrada being reelected President.

"If Estrada will be President, he will put a stop to extrajudicial killings which is a main problem in Nueva Ecija," Maceda told the audience.

He then held up Wednesday's INQUIRER front page which featured, as the banner story, the controversial report of United Nations rapporteur Philip Alston tagging the military to be behind the murder of activists and journalists in the country.

Later at the carabao center, Maceda again played the role of Estrada's drumbeater, saying "there must be some way to give (Estrada) back" the three and a half years taken away from his short-lived presidency and the six years he spent in detention.

Another staunch supporter remarked: "That's why he's been going around. He is trying to feel the pulse of people if he still enjoys their support."

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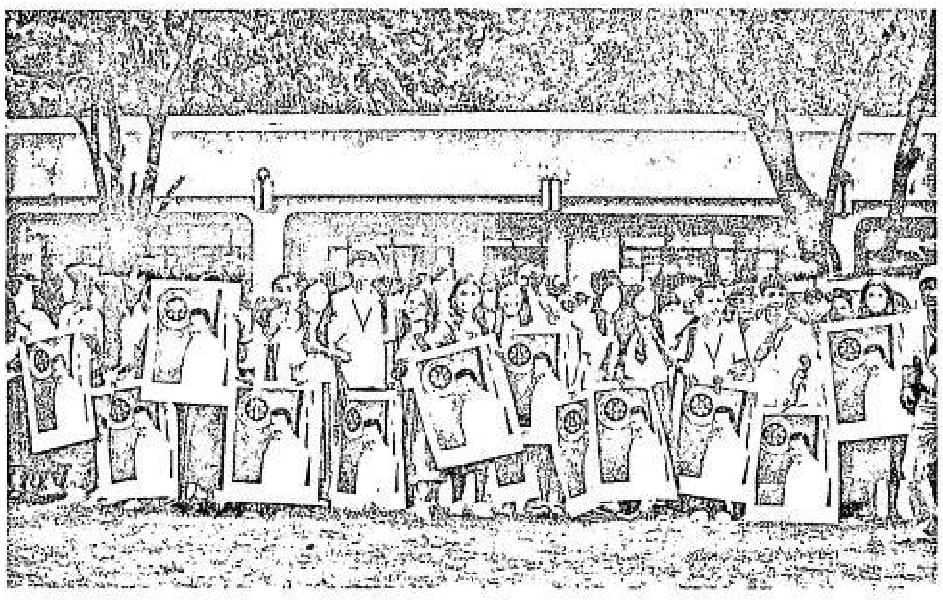


HOW CAN YOU TELL THEY'RE ERAP FANS? Students of Constancio Padilla National High School in San Jose, Nueva Ecija, waiting to welcome former President Estrada hold his posters showing the convicted-pardoned man in a formal presidential pose. REM ZAMORA

FVR on Gloria: RP has 'no better options'

From page A1

"My support for her is only so incidental and secondary to my protection and enhancement of the national interest," Ramos told the INQUIRER in an interview here yesterday.

Asked why, he quipped: "So tell me, what are the options? *Wala, lalong gugulo* (None, everything will be messed up)."

Ramos was at the University of the Philippines Los Baños to receive a special award given by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca).

Asked if Ms Arroyo still deserves to be the President until 2010 amid calls by civil society groups and some Church leaders for her to resign, Ramos said only the people could make that opinion.

What Filipinos should all think of was how "to keep the national interest and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country well-protected," he said.

Dr. Arsenio Balisacan, Searca director and doctor of philosophy in economics, said the agency presented the award to Ramos for his accomplishments when he was President from 1992 to 1998.

Liberalizing access

"If there is a single person in the Philippine history who really did a great job in starting broadening the base of development in this country, it is this guy (Ramos), by liberalizing access to technology—particularly telephone, airlines, interisland shipping, banks," Balisacan told the INQUIRER.

In his keynote address, Ramos said his administration had focused on modernizing the country's agricultural sector through reforms such as the enactment of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (Republic Act No. 8435) and the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act (RA 8435), and the establishment of agrarian reform communities.

He enumerated his programs, such as farm-to-market-roads, irrigation networks, rural electrification, seaports, city expressways, and mass-transit systems.

The infrastructure facilities, according to Balisacan, established a strong link between the urban and rural areas.

But the Searca official stressed that most of Ramos' development programs were discontinued by his successor, Joseph Estrada.

GMA problems

Ms Arroyo, according to Balisacan, had exposure on agriculture but had problems in getting the right people to manage the sector.

"And productivity growth still remains the problem," he said. "The main reason we have zero productivity growth in agriculture already for two decades is the lack of efficiency-enhancing measure."

Balisacan said the Arroyo administration was not receptive to the idea of long-term investments in research and extension to enhance efficiency because these would not yield immediate results.

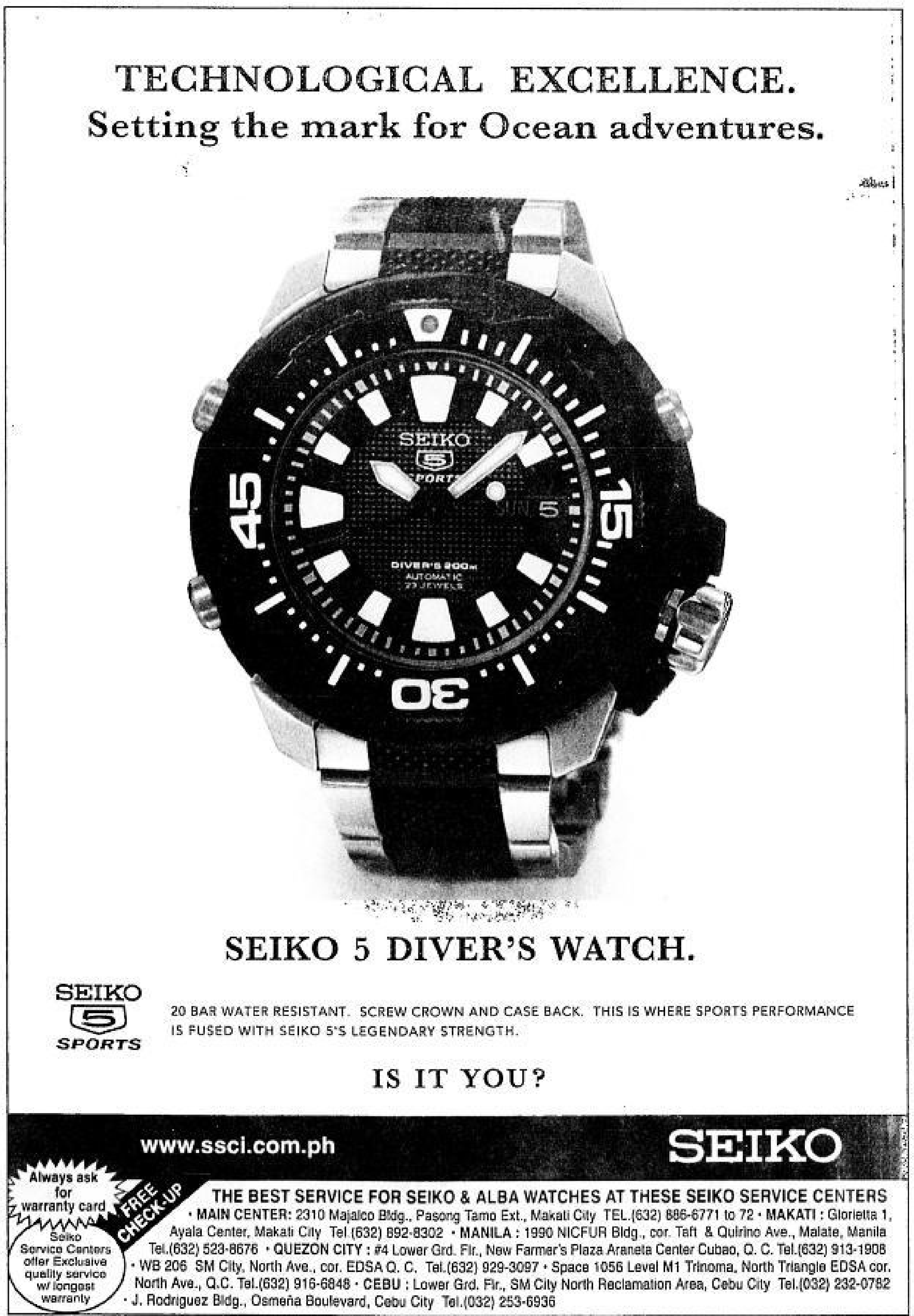
"But efficiency-enhancing measures are cumulative, and it is only after three to four years that you could see and feel the impact," he said.

Waste of time

Balisacan said he was dismayed with the government's program on subsidizing hybrid rice as a waste of time. "The risk is high, and its yield-turnout is very low," he said.

"The government must have done the testing of the new technology first in different agriculture areas because it might not work out here," he said.

Ramos was presented the award on the occasion of Searca's 40th founding anniversary and the launching of the Dioscoro L. Umali Achievement Award for Agricultural Development for Southeast Asians, named after the national scientist and Searca founder.



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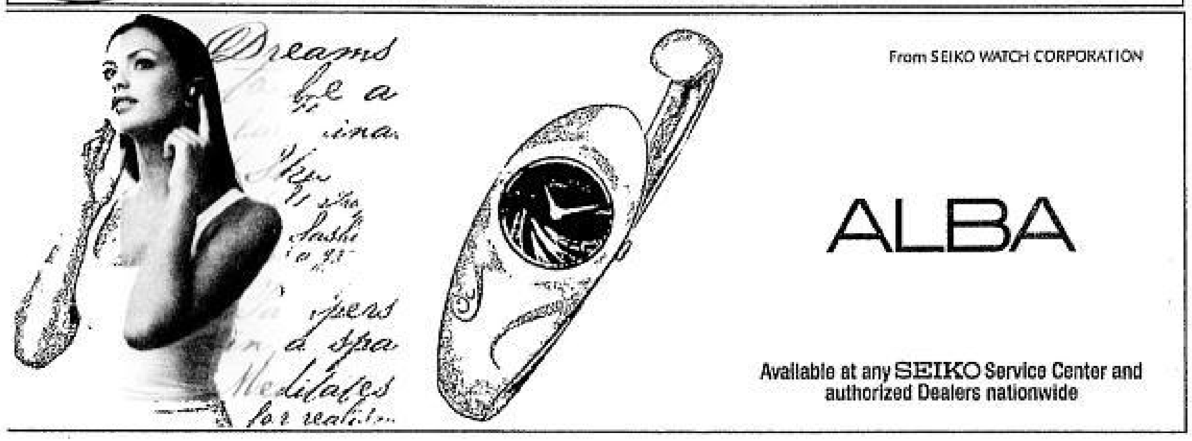

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The Agora Philippines

The Agora Award is the beacon of Filipino Marketing Excellence that spotlights admirable qualities of versatility, innovativeness and ingenuity. Through The Agora, the Filipino is hailed as a world-class marketer endowed with a proven flair for out-of-the-box thinking and trailblazing achievements. Because of the Agora, marketing excellence shine through with a distinctive Filipino touch.

As symbolized by the butterfly undergoing metamorphosis, to emerge victorious from its cocoon, the Agora Awards represents all that is best and brightest about the Filipino Marketer.

The butterfly wings in the Agora logo carry the national colors of the Philippines. Like the butterfly soaring triumphantly upward to achieve excellence, we believe that the Philippines itself will undergo positive transformation. The illustrious winners of the coveted Agora Awards bestowed on this special evening will no doubt play key roles in bringing about a brilliant future for Filipino business and consumers in the years to come.

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"C2 has surpassed the typical theme of wellness by going holistic, not just the mind and body, but the spirit as well. C2 appreciates the different facets of wellness and I congratulate them for their belief in us. I am truly honored to have been a part of their activities during the C2 Life events.!"

– Jill Ngo-Crisologo, belly dancing expert, Peak Performance

"The C2 Life event was a great way to show the different fun and cool ways to be healthy. Thanks to C2 for the opportunity to share how one can relax one's way to health with Taichi. Coolness!"

– Karl Go, Taichi instructor

"I have always been in support of balanced living. Everything in moderation is the key to living a full life. I'm glad that C2 is promoting these values."

– Carlos Celdran, Walk This Way

"The activities of the C2 Life Series made me realize that holistic wellness can be fun. Every activity was different yet equally stimulating for the mind, body or the soul. When's the next series?!?"

– Sam Oh, TV personality

"The (C2 Life) event Old Manila Walks was food for mind, body and soul; a great way to live a holistic life"

– Ivan ManDy, Old Manila Walks

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TAKASAGO

AMAZING EAGLES
The Ateneo Blue Eagles celebrate after receiving their trophies and the replica of their scholarship check at The Arena in San Juan yesterday. The Eagles whipped the UV Green Lancers to bag the Champions League crown. ***Story on A31. Other sports stories on A31 to 36.*** RYAN LIM

Late SPORTS

Taulava fails to lift Coke; Kings score

GAMES TOMORROW *(Ynares Center)*
4:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs Air21
7:20 p.m.—Purefoods vs Magnolia

By June Navarro

IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN AN ASI TAULAVA to pull the Coca-Cola Tigers out of their slump.

The Alaska Aces proved too much for the Tigers last night, leading on a slew of reliable gunslingers to post a 117-106 win in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Jeffrey Cariaso and Mike Cortez displayed near-flawless three-point shooting while reigning Most Valuable Player Willie Miller shone on both ends of the floor for the Aces, who secured a sixth victory in eight games. The Aces moved up to solo third at 6-4 behind Purefoods (9-1) and Red Bull (6-3) following a 0-2 conference start.

Mark Caguioa finished with 21 points and Jayjay Helterbrand added 20 as Barangay Ginebra avenged a humiliating defeat to Welcoat with a 94-87 victory over the Dragons in the other game.

The Gin Kings scored a second straight win, their fourth victory overall in 10 games. The Dragons, who shamed the Kings, 84-62, in Roxas City last month, dropped to 3-7.

If there's any consolation, the 6-foot-9 Taulava outdid himself after tallying 33 points and pulling down 17 rebounds in his debut for the Tigers, who plummeted to their eighth consecutive defeat and fell to 1-8.

It was Taulava's highest output in a game since scoring a career-high 51 points for Talk 'N Text in a victory over Purefoods during the 2004 Fiesta Conference.

Talk 'N Text sent the 2003 MVP Taulava to the Tigers for Ali Peek and Coca-Cola's first-round draft pick next year in an unexpected trade early in the week.

Mark Telan also had a double-double with 24 points and 10 rebounds for Coca-Cola.

"Because of the trade, it kind of woke us up," said Alaska coach Tim Cone. "We know that with Asi around, it will change the whole complexion of the team. In a way, it's a positive thing for us. It made us more mentally prepared."

Cariaso and Cortez buried all their three attempts outside the arc while big men Kenneth Bono and Reynel Hugnatan nailed a trey of their own as the Aces built a commanding 65-48 haltime lead.

The scores:

First Game

ALASKA 117—Cariaso 26, Miller 25, Cortez 20, Bono 9, Quinahan 8, Hugnatan 8, Ferriols 6, Dela Cruz 6, Cabatu 4, Laure 3, Thoss 2, Capus 0.

COCA-COLA 106—Taulava 33, Telan 24, Buenafe 18, Duremdes 11, Cabagnot 7, Dimaunahan 7, Enrile 3, Caceres 2, Tolomia 1, Isip 0, Misolas 0.

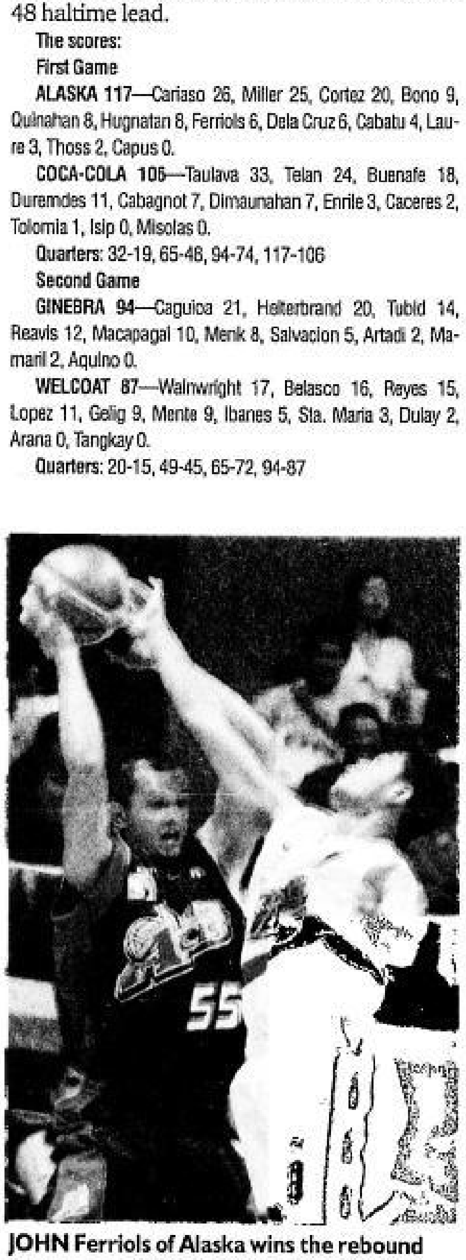
Quarters: 32-19, 65-48, 94-74, 117-106

Second Game

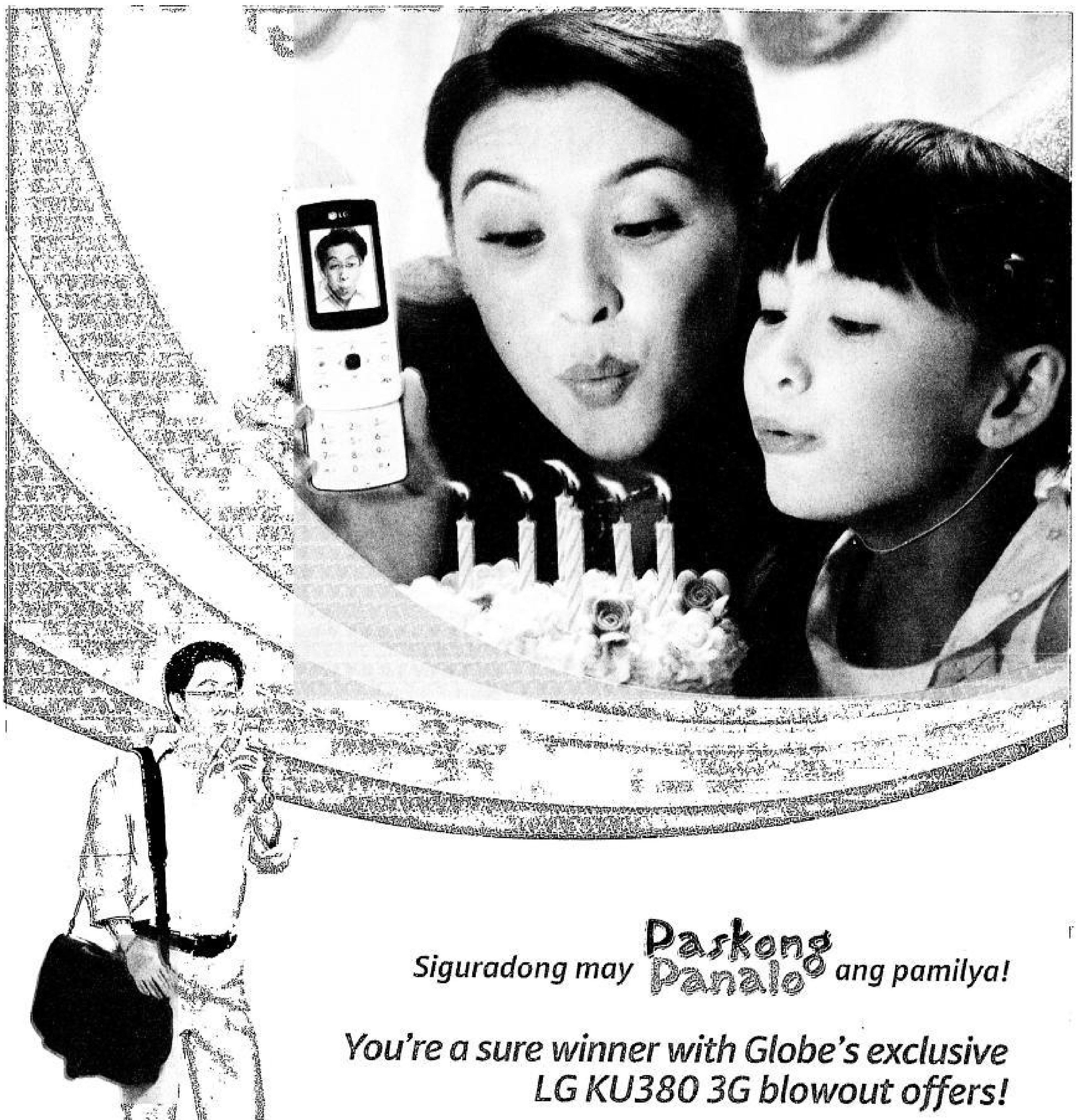
GINEBRA 94—Caguioa 21, Helterbrand 20, Tubid 14, Reavis 12, Macapagal 10, Menk 8, Salvacion 5, Artadi 2, Mamaril 2, Aquino 0.

WELCOAT 87—Wainwright 17, Belasco 16, Reyes 15, Lopez 11, Gelig 9, Mente 9, Ibanes 5, Sta. Maria 3, Dulay 2, Arana 0, Tangkay 0.

Quarters: 20-15, 49-45, 65-72, 94-87



JOHN Ferriols of Alaska wins the rebound battle versus Coca-Cola's Ronjay Buenafe.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ



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DID YOU KNOW

BARANGAY Ayala Alabang, known as the home of the rich and famous, is the third largest barangay in Muntinlupa City, spanning 694 hectares. The first-class residential and commercial area was created in 1981 with Don Enrique Zobel as barangay chair. The barangay is home to approximately 40,000 residents.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

22 bus firms named top mobile polluters

Smoke belchers tagged in yearlong search

By Kristine L. Alave

TWENTY-TWO BUS COMPANIES operating in the metropolis were tagged as this year's top mobile polluters by environmental officials who urged the public to boycott smoke-belching buses.

The Association of Metro Manila Environment Officers and the Metro Manila Anti-Smoke Belching Association said the bus companies—the awardees of the 1st "Lason sa Hangin" awards—were identified after a year of monitoring throughout the metropolis.

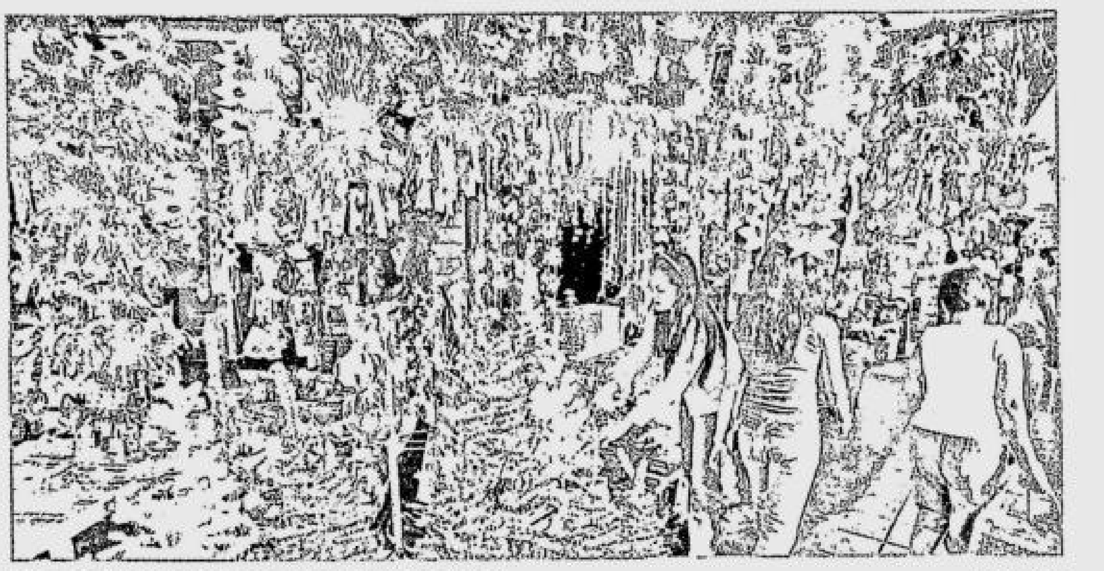
The firms were also the recipients of notices issued by anti-smoke belching monitors in Metro Manila.

Racquel A. Naciongayo, president of the MMASBA and vice president of the AMMEO, said the companies' carbon dioxide emission levels were above the threshold for emission opacity standard (2.5 K) as mandated in the Clean Air Act. The award, she added, was aimed at shaming the city and provincial bus lines into cleaning up their act.

Naciongayo said the bus companies pose a danger to the public and the environment because their emissions are over 9 K. She added that smoke belching increases one's risk of getting cancer and has also been linked to many respiratory diseases.

According to the organization's monitoring, the top five most polluting bus firms are the Alabang Transport Service Cooperative Inc. (TSCI), Cultural Transport Group, Lagro TSCI, Fairview-New York TSCI and GSIS TSCI.

The others are San Pedro TSCI, Pasay TSCI, A. Roces TSCI, New Alabang Transport Group, Punt TSCI, Muntinlupa TSCI, JMK Liner Corp., Basicano TSCI, Trakwell Transport Link Inc., Roman Cameron Transit Corp., Quezon City TSCI, Pascual Liner Inc., Nuestra Señora del Carmen Transport Service, Mandaluyong TSCI, Louwin Lending and Credit Inc., Evergreen Bagong Silang Transport Corp. and Dagupan Bus Co. Inc.



COLORFUL DISPLAY, BUT NO TAKERS ERIK ARAZAS
A display of Christmas decorations sold on a street in Makati City draws little attention from passersby.

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Borrowers can choose from 15 or 20-year payment terms. After all, BPI Family Savings Bank recognizes that indeed, housing is really an investment that takes time to save up for.

Beyond the fixed payment terms, the uniqueness of the Step Up housing loan lies in the insightful way payments are scheduled. Monthly amortizations start off low, then as twenty-somethings climb the corporate ladder or as newlyweds combine their income, payments are increased alongside their earning capacity. One can pay only P8,000 for the first two years, P9,800 for the next two years and P12,500 for the remaining 16 years for a P1 million loan amount with a 20-year term. Truly, it is a product that allows one to step up in life.

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P 11,800	next 2 years	P 9,800	next 2 years
P 13,600	Remaining 11 years	P 12,500	Remaining 16 years

* Computation based on a P1,000,000 loan amount on a fixed 20-year term

The BPI Family Savings Bank Build Your Dream Step Up housing loan is initially available in Metro Manila. For inquiries, interested parties can call 845-6888, text HOUSING<space>name<space>message and send to 0917-8910000 or 0918-8910000, visit the nearest BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

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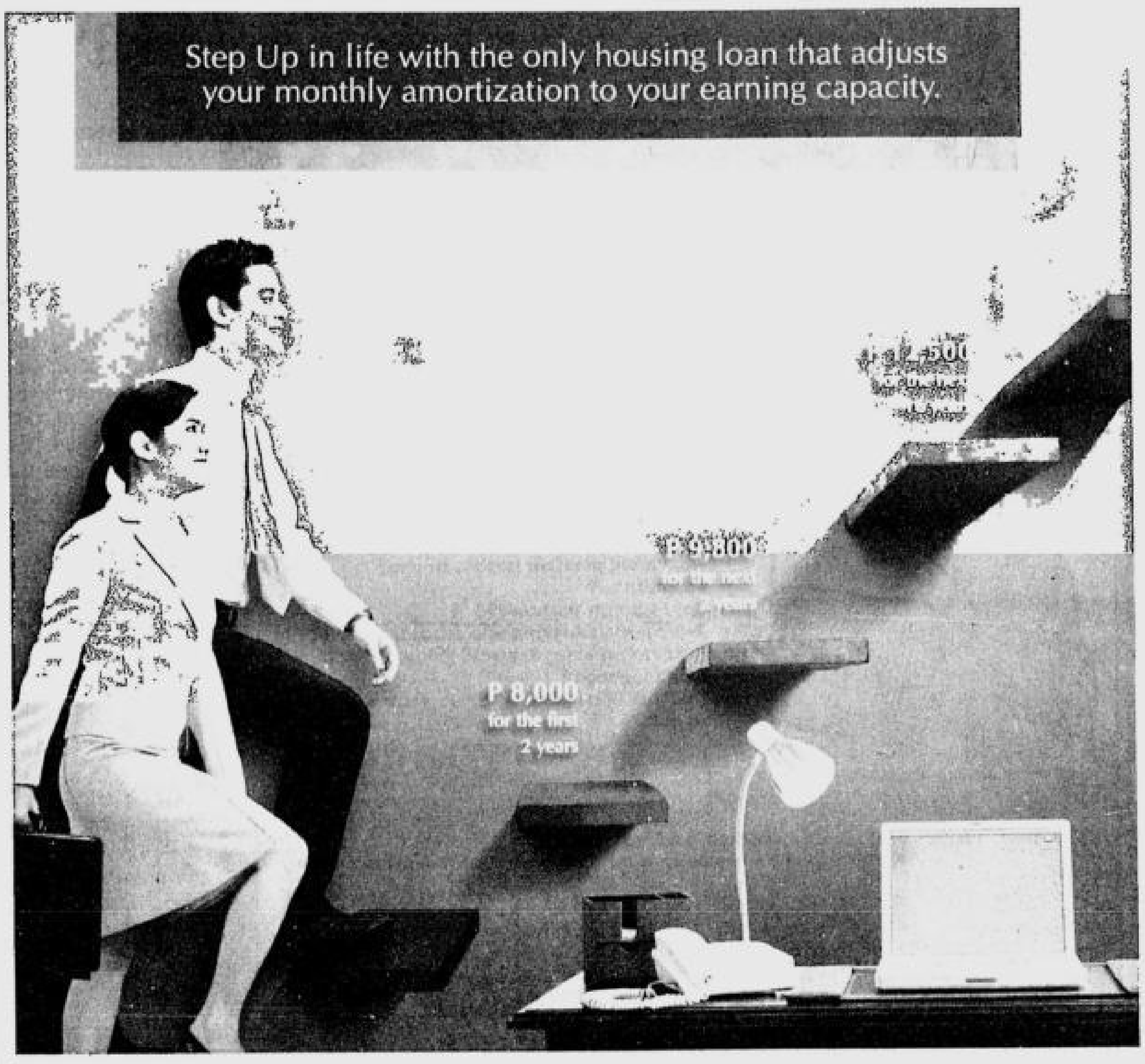
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P 13,600	Remaining 11 years	P 12,500	Remaining 16 years

* Computation based on a P1,000,000 loan amount on a fixed 20-year term

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HONDA

Marcos and GMA regimes similar

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD, the Arroyo administration matches the regime of President Marcos on the issue of human rights.

This would make President Gloria's reign appear worse than Marcos because we are now supposedly in a democracy, while the Marcos government was a dictatorship.

Which is worse, democratic rule leaning towards a dictatorship—Gloria's—or a dictatorship pretending to be a democracy, that of Marcos?

Under GMA's supposedly democratic government, many leftists and journalists have been killed allegedly by the military or police.

Marcos, on the other hand, ruled the country with an iron hand through his military.

* * *

There's a big similarity between the Marcos regime and the Arroyo administration.

During Marcos' rule, the government jailed journalists who severely criticized President Ferdie before he imposed martial law.

Marcos also jailed opposition figures like Ninoy Aquino and suspected leftists.

Under Ms Gloria, we have a government that tolerates the killing of leftists and journalists.

Under Ms Arroyo, we have a government that cannot stand criticism.

This is the only administration where scores of journalists have been haled to court for criticizing the President's husband, Jose Miguel.

Were it not for the life-threatening heart surgery that he underwent, and the fact that going to court to testify against his journalist-critics would be bad for his health, Mike Arroyo would not have dropped those libel suits.

I am probably the respondent with the most number of libel cases after the Arroyo regime went on a binge against journalists.

I chalked up a total of eight libel cases, plus an equal number of extortion cases filed by persons most of whom I hadn't met before I faced them in the prosecutors' offices.

Under normal circumstances, those extortion cases would have been dropped at the prosecutors level, but they were filed in court, anyway.

Why?

Because the prosecutors were probably afraid of displeasing some people.

* * *

I was already a columnist during the Marcos era, but I was never subjected to as much persecution as I have gone through in the Gloria regime.

Yes, there were rumors in those dark martial law years that I would be shot by some members of the military for my acerbic pen.

I was prepared for any eventuality because I knew what I got myself into.

But I was never prepared for the intense persecution that I would face in this administration that was initially friendly to me.

I would have preferred being threatened with bodily harm, as I experienced in the Marcos years, over the emotional pressure that I recently went through.

How would you feel if you were told that your house would be raided in the middle of the night, and your small business would be scrutinized by the Bureau of Internal Revenue ?

How would you feel if your reputation is besmirched with fabricated extortion cases?

What am I driving at here?

The report by United Nations spècial rapporteur Philip Alston that the military was behind the killings of leftists has basis.

President Gloria could have looked the other way when the leftists, as well as journalists, were being butchered by her military.

She looked the other way when her husband started filing libel as well as extortion cases, against journalists who crossed him.

* * *

There's another distinct similarity between Marcos and Ms Arroyo: Both of them apparently looked the other way as far as their spouses were concerned.

But the similarity ends where the military is concerned.

Marcos held the Armed Forces by the neck.

It looks like the opposite in the current administration.

SLOW DAY ERIK ARAZAS
A slight increase in the price of vegetables due to recent typhoons has scared off buyers, prompting a vendor in Makati City to sprinkle his vegetables with water to keep them fresh.

METRO

Citizen's Call

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- Awed by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact in your community?
- Got stuck in potholes?
- Fed up with cussing and feuding neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

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[illegible]

Please don't send tips on criminal activities and scams. Call the police.

INQUIRER

Ma strangled, then stabbed dead

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE CRIES OF AN INFANT LED TO the discovery of the baby's dead mother inside their rented room in Quezon City on Tuesday night.

Fatima Bantuas, 20, a vendor and resident of of 3008 Filinvest I in Batasan Hills, had been stabbed to death. There were also strangle marks around her neck.

SPO1 Leonardo Pasco of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said that the victim's body was found at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday by her neighbor Marilyn Pascual.

Pascual said that after listening for an hour to the insistent cries of the victim's 7-month-old baby, she decided to find out what the matter was.

Pascual told the police that she saw the door to the victim's rented room open. When she peeked inside, she saw the crying child on the bed and her mother lying bloodied on the floor.

Pascual immediately alerted members of the Barangay Security Police Office who called the police. The child was turned over to the custody of the victim's relatives.

The case investigator said that the extent of the injuries sustained by the victim showed deep rage. "She (Bantuas) had five stab wounds in the face apart from those inflicted all over her body," Pasco pointed out.

An eight-inch long bloody kitchen knife believed to be the murder weapon was found by Scene of the Crime Operatives under the kitchen sink.

The knife's blade was been slightly bent, Pasco said, indicating the force with which the suspect stabbed the victim.

He explained that the wounds on Bantuas' legs and arms meant that she had tried to fight off her attacker.

Robbery was immediately ruled out as all of the victim's belongings were intact.

2 vehicles lost to car thieves in Quezon City

By Jeannette I. Andrade

CAR THIEVES STRUCK TWICE within five hours in Quezon City, making off with a van parked in Barangay Sacred Heart on Tuesday night and a sports utility vehicle taken forcibly from its owner in Cubao yesterday.

Based on police reports, Dr. Philip Acop, 33, of New Manila, Quezon City, and his wife, Jacqueline, were about to board their black Toyota Fortuner (ZBL 212) at 12:30 a.m. when three unidentified armed men aboard a black Honda City blocked their path.

After ordering the couple to alight from their Fortuner, the suspects boarded the SUV and then sped off, followed by the Honda.

The incident happened in front of a convenience store on Granada Street near the corner of N. Domingo Street in Barangay Valencia, Cubao.

Four hours before the incident, Jan Yres Junsay lost his light green Toyota Innova (XSZ 507) to robbers.

Junsay told police that he parked his van on Scout Fernandez Street in Barangay Sacred Heart at around 8 p.m. Tuesday. When he returned, the vehicle was already gone.

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Pasig City Hall safe; cracks 'superficial'

By Kristine L. Alave and Allison W. Lopez

THE PASIG CITY HALL IS SAFE and sound, the city's chief engineer said a day after a strong earthquake jolted Metro Manila on Tuesday and left cracks in some parts of the building's plaster ceiling.

Pasig City chief engineer Jose L. Reyes said an inspection showed that the entire building, which houses the local government offices, is structurally safe. "We wouldn't be here if it weren't," he said.

The cracks spotted at the fifth floor ceiling and on the second floor walkway were only superficial, Reyes explained. He noted that the cracks only affected the plaster coating of the ceilings and not the core structure.

Apart from the Pasig City Hall, Reyes and his engineers also inspected other government institutions and schools in the city after the quake. "There were no damages," he said.

There were also no reports of damage to private buildings in Pasig City, he added.

The 5.6 magnitude earthquake was recorded at 12:26 p.m. on Tuesday and was traced 86 kilometers northwest of Pangasinan.

According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, the earthquake was recorded at Intensity 3 in Pasig and Makati cities and Intensity 4 in Manila and Caloocan City.

In Manila, the city engineer and building official has also ordered an inspection of buildings following Tuesday's quake.

No damage has been so far reported by engineers who went around the city, City Engineer Armand Andres said yesterday.

City building official Melvin Balagot also confirmed that they had not received any reports about damaged buildings in Manila.

METROBRIEFS

Photocopied books seized in Manila

NEARLY 200 illegally reproduced nursing and medical textbooks sold near the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) building in Sampaloc, Manila, were seized by National Bureau of Investigation agents in a raid last week. Armed with a search warrant issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Aida Layug, members of the NBI Special Action Unit led by head agent Angelito Magno confiscated the photocopied books from Ferpage, RBL and an unnamed store allegedly owned by Vergel Viloria on P. Paredes Street last Nov. 21. Seized were 131 assorted textbooks, including NCLEX reviewers by Lippincott; 41 textbooks by Mosby, Elsevier and Saunders; 119 assorted compact discs; a record book, a price list and two computers. The items, said Magno, were "complete and partially complete unauthorized reproductions of nursing and other allied medical science textbooks and CDs" by foreign publishers. *Allison W. Lopez*

Leviste lawyers on witness stand at murder trial

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE DEFENSE IN THE ONGOING murder trial of former Batangas Gov. Jose Antonio Leviste yesterday presented two lawyers who testified that the victim, Leviste's longtime aide, Rafael de las Alas, tried to shoot the suspect.

Lawyers Alex Sandoval and Dennis Amparo, who also serve as counsel to Leviste, said that on Jan. 12, they heard gunshots coming from the former governor's office at the LPL Towers in Makati City.

Sandoval and Amparo told Judge Elmo Alameda of the Makati City Regional Trial Court Branch 150 that they met Leviste who told them: "That man tried to shoot me," referring to De las Alas.

Leviste has been accused of killing the victim during a heated argument. He had repeatedly said that it was done in self-defense.

The defense began presenting early this month its witnesses whose testimonies have a similar theme: That De las Alas was a man with an "aggressive and violent" temper.

Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, meanwhile, pointed out that the defense witnesses were mostly employees of Leviste who were indebted to him.

"The witnesses are biased for their employer, of course … all the witnesses presented so far are still working for Leviste. They owe their economic stability to him," he said.

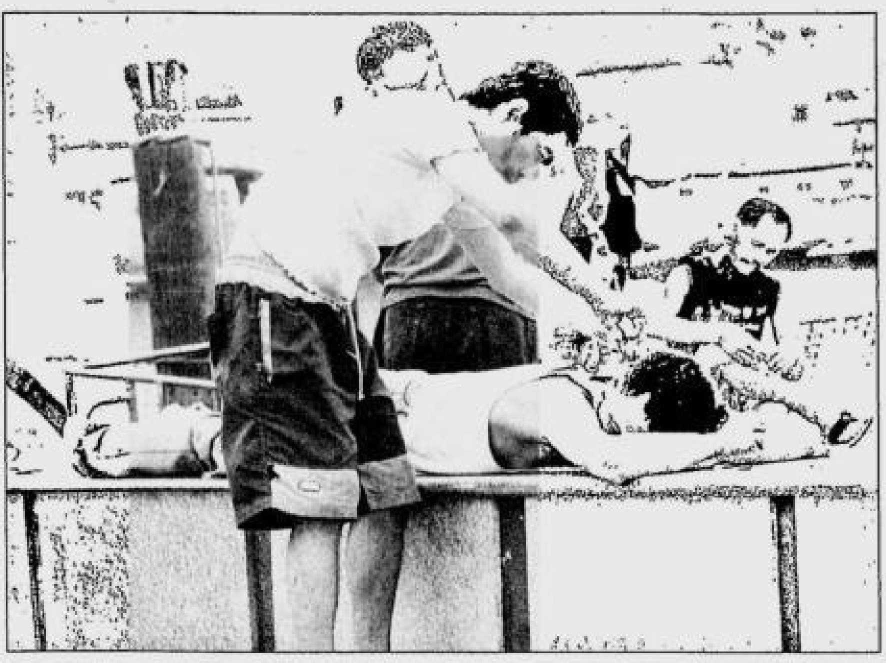
Velasco pointed out that apart from the former governor who will take the witness stand next year, there was no one who claimed to have actually seen De las Alas threaten Leviste before he was killed.

"The witnesses were not in the room when Leviste shot his longtime aide. Our point is that there is nobody who can testify that De las Alas tried to draw a gun and shoot Leviste," he said.

Velasco added that the testimonies of the previous witnesses—De las Alas' driver, Salvador Capitin, and Levie Panganiban, was aimed at bolstering the claim that De Las Alas had a violent temper.

Leviste lawyer Manuel Singson, on the other hand, dismissed Velasco's statements.

"It doesn't mean that they won't tell the truth just because they are Leviste's employees," he told the INQUIRER.



NO BARBER'S CHAIR HERE
A group of men get a hair cut in an unusual way on the boardwalk near the Manila Yacht club.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Makati pays tribute to 6 top mothers

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE MAKATI CITY GOVERNMENT WILL honor six women, including movie producer Armida Siguion-Reyna, as "Mother of the Year" in a ceremony to be held on Dec. 3.

"This is the city's own way of honoring the distinctive and indispensable role of mothers in preserving the sanctity of the family and their contributions to nation-building," Mayor Jejomar Binay said.

The winners will receive a trophy and a medallion.

The other awardees are Angelina Almanzor of Barangay San Lorenzo, Banaag Alvarez of Barangay San Antonio, Paz Encontro of Barangay Comembo, Mauricia Guiuan of Barangay Guadalupe Nuevo and Regina Ubaña of Barangay San Isidro.

Siguion-Reyna, wife of lawyer Leonardo Siguion-Reyna, is a multi-awarded movie actress, singer, host, movie producer and columnist.

She has three children, one of them movie director Carlos Siguion-Reyna, and six grandchildren.

Binay said Siguion-Reyna was chosen because of her long standing leadership and invaluable contributions to the development of music and the arts and because of her fight against censorship.

The city-wide search was conducted by the city's Museum and Cultural Affairs Office.

Blackmail via video on Net

By Allison W. Lopez

NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION agents have arrested a man who demanded P10,000 from a minor in exchange for destroying a video that allegedly showed them doing intimate acts.

NBI Field Operations Division chief Roland Argabioso said he and his men nabbed Jeffrey Vega Simbe, 23, a resident of Filinvest II, Quezon City, as he accepted the money from the 17-year-old girl in a fast food restaurant in Sampaloc, Manila on Nov. 23.

Argabioso said the girl approached the NBI after the suspect reportedly installed the video, which he had taken on his cell phone, on his Friendster account. He also asked her to pay him P10,000 if she wanted the video destroyed.

The NBI official said the minor was not Simbe's only victim. He was also believed to have blackmailed another woman into continuing her relationship with him after he allegedly threatened to post their sex videos on the Internet, Argabioso added.

NBI agents recovered Simbe's cell phone which reportedly contained sex videos of the suspect with the victim and several other women. The suspect was charged in the Manila City Prosecutor's Office with robbery/extortion and child abuse.

12 new bus stops to rise on Edsa

By Abigail L. Ho

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority hopes to alleviate commuter stress starting next month by setting up 12 new bus stops on Edsa and ensuring that public utility buses are sent out only when there is a demand for them.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando told reporters yesterday that the plan was to provide 27 stops on Edsa for buses plying different routes. Fifteen have already been put up. The remaining 12 would be constructed in the coming months.

Fernando said the stops would be designed to make traffic movement more efficient by seeing to it that commuters boarded buses in designated areas. It would also limit the buses plying the streets when there only a few commuters.

"Our budget for infrastructure isn't really that big—usually just about P500 million a year. We will ask for funds from the Department of Public Works and Highways to use for these projects," he said.

Calling all doctors, allies in the health profession and other sectors

Because the path to **national solidarity** begins with the first step…

COME AND JOIN
In Healing the Nation
Through a Walk for Progress and Medical-Dental Mission
on Friday, November 30, 2007

The Walk for Progress will assemble at 5:30 a.m., between the CCP Complex and Aliw Theater. Interested parties may register on site. Participants will start walking by 7:00 a.m., moving towards the Rajah Sulayman Park where the medical-dental mission will be held.

The medical-dental mission shall provide free consultations from doctors affiliated with institutions supporting the Heal the Nation Movement, namely: Philippine Medical Association, Solid Bloc of Cavite, Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists, Cavite Medical Society, Dra. Olivia Salamanca Memorial Hospital, Medical Center Manila, Emilio Aguinaldo College of Medicine-Manila, Emilio Aguinaldo College-Medical Center Cavite, Philippine Academy of Family Physicians-Cavite Chapter, Divine Grace Medical Center, Medical Services of America, Cavite Medical Representatives Association, Rizal Medical Center. Providing support for this endeavor are the Solid Cavite Rotary Club, Music Foundation of Dasmarinas Cavite, the Municipality of Bacoor, Cavite represented by Mayor Strike Revilla, Delta Com, Beta Sigma Fraternity, various interfaith congregation, St. Martin Pediatric & Maternity Hospital and Our Savior Hospital.
For inquiries, please look for Ancel Canete at (02) 522-4303.

HEAL THE NATION NOW!

WE, who represent thousands of concerned physicians across the Philippines, stand as one in our call for genuine national solidarity.

We are distressed by the deplorable state of well-being of the country and its people. Both are weakened by disease – literally and figuratively – hampering their growth and productivity.

However, it is not the illness that alarms us the most but the neglect of those we put in power to care for and protect the best interests of the people.

Divisiveness is a cancer that is eating us from within.

Thus, we ask the leaders of our country to stop the mindless bickering and endless politicking so that the process of healing the nation can begin.

As doctors we can only do so much in saving the lives of our countrymen.

But you, our honorable legislators, can do so much more.

Even we, the medical practitioners, have felt your neglect. Many have left the country not because there are no opportunities here, but because they are disillusioned and fed up with politics in our country.

Let us make health our priority.

Let us cease all activities that would only lead to a divided nation.

Let us administer healing ministrations on our society.

Let us respect the Rule of Law and support the mandated government.

Let us work towards a concerted effort in promoting better health services for all Filipinos.

Let us heal the nation…NOW...

or we ruin ourselves forever.

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Past President, Phil. Academy of Family Physicians

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Israel, Palestinians vow '08 peace deal

Bush admits task won't be easy

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush, center, walks with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, left, and Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas on Wednesday during the Annapolis Conference in Maryland. AFP

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND— ISRAEL AND THE Palestinians pledged on Tuesday to seek a peace deal by the end of 2008 as they relaunched negotiations frozen for seven years at a major US-sponsored conference.

Flanked by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas, US President George W. Bush read out the pledge to top diplomats and others from 50 countries and organizations meeting in Annapolis, Maryland.

"We agree to engage in vigorous, ongoing and continuous negotiations and shall make every effort to conclude an agreement before the end of 2008," said the joint Palestinian-Israeli statement read out by Bush before preliminary closed-door talks.

'Now is the time'

But within hours of the announcement, Olmert said a 2008 deadline for a deal might not be reached.

"We are not trying to suggest that it can be done within a week or within a year, but you have to start somewhere. And we are committed, absolutely, to help start it," Olmert told National Public Radio (NPR).

Brushing aside skeptics, Bush told international delegates meeting at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis: "I believe that now is precisely the right time to begin these negotiations—for a number of reasons."

He cited a new willingness among the leaders of both sides as well as global support for fresh negotiations, and warned "we must not cede victory to the extremists."

The Annapolis conference amounts to Bush's biggest push for Middle East peace since he took office in 2001.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said later the new negotiations would begin on Wednesday at the White House between Olmert and Abbas.

But Bush acknowledged sealing a deal would not be easy, and in a sign of the difficulties ahead, tens of thousands of Palestinian Islamists poured onto the streets in Gaza and the West Bank in protests which left one Palestinian dead.

'Achilles heel'

Israeli government spokesperson Mark Regev told reporters that groups like the Palestinian Islamist extremist group Hamas are "the Achilles heel" of the new peace process because they could change the agenda with attacks.

Israeli settlers in the West Bank were also anxiously watching the outcome of the talks fearing they could spell the end of their dream of a "Greater Israel."

But Abbas told his people to "trust in the future, for an independent Palestine is arriving," while Olmert vowed Israel was prepared to make a "painful compromise" to achieve peace.

"Israel is committed to peace. Israel is prepared for a compromise," he reiterated later in the NPR interview.

Victory for Bush

The joint statement from the Palestinians and Israelis was a victory for Bush, only hammered out at the last minute with his direct intervention.

The first meeting of a top-level steering committee is to be held on Dec. 12, and the two sides agreed "to conclude a peace treaty resolving all outstanding issues," White House spokesperson Dana Perino said.

Major differences remain over core issues like the status of Jerusalem, the borders of a future Palestinian state and the fate of Palestinian refugees.

Abbas urged direct and concrete measures on the ground to show that the world was "committed to the irreversible march towards peace," he said. *AFP*

Iran develops new missile that can hit Israel, US bases

TEHRAN—IRAN ANNOUNCED on Tuesday that it has built a new missile with a range sufficient to put Israel and US bases in the Middle East within easy reach, amid rising tensions over Tehran's contested nuclear drive.

Defense Minister Mostafa Mohammad Najjar said the new "Ashura" missile had a range of 2,000 kilometers—the farthest in Iran's arsenal, state media reported.

"The construction of the Ashura missile with a range of 2,000 km is one of the accomplishments of the ministry of defense," Iranian news agencies quoted Najjar as saying.

"The missiles are being made in line with Iran's deterrent and defense doctrine," he added.

However, there has been considerable confusion in recent months about the capacities of Iran's longer-range missiles, seen by experts as one of its chief military assets.

At its main military parade in September, Iran unveiled the Ghadr-1 (Power), which was said to have a range of 1,800 km.

The country's best-known longer-range missile, the Shahab-3, has been said by officials in the past to have a range of 2,000 km. Yet at the military parade it was said to have only a 1,300-km range.

The agencies did not publish any pictures of the Ashura, which is named after the holy mourning ceremony marking the death of Shiite Imam Hossein. *AFP*

Journalists hold grim view of Iraq dangers

IN A NEWLY RELEASED SURvey, American journalists in Iraq give harrowing accounts of their work, with the great majority saying colleagues have been kidnapped or killed and that most parts of Baghdad are too dangerous for them to visit.

The survey was conducted by the Project for Excellence in Journalism, an arm of the nonpartisan Pew Research Center in Washington.

Of the 111 journalists who participated, half had spent at least nine months in Iraq, and three-quarters had experience reporting on other armed conflicts. Most of the journalists were surveyed in October, one of the least deadly months in Baghdad in recent years.

Almost two-thirds of the respondents said most or all of their street reporting was done by local citizens, yet 87 percent said it was not safe for their Iraqi reporters to openly carry notebooks, cameras or anything else that identified them as journalists.

Two-thirds of respondents said they worried that their reliance on local reporters—including many with little or no background in journalism—could produce inaccurate or incomplete news reports. The Americans also voiced serious concerns about how effectively they were able to do their own jobs.

Most respondents said the media did not do a good job covering the lives of ordinary Iraqis or reconstruction efforts, simply because those lines of reporting could be deadly.

The Project for Excellence said the journalists in the survey worked for 29 of the 30 news organizations that report regularly from Iraq and reach large American audiences. The project kept the names of the organizations secret as well as those of the journalists, citing security concerns.

Iraqi employees take the greatest risks by far, going to the most dangerous places and dying in the greatest numbers, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, a separate organization that keeps track of violence against journalists. It says 124 journalists from outlets around the world have been killed in Iraq since the war there began in 2003, including 102 Iraqis. *NYT*

CHINESE residents in Japan welcome China's guided missile destroyer Shenzhen docking in central Tokyo. AFP

China warship docks in Tokyo

TOKYO—A CHINESE WARSHIP arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday on the first such port call since World War II, the latest sign of warming ties between the Asian neighbors and former foes.

The two countries had agreed to reciprocal warship visits in 2000, but China cancelled a planned port call in 2002 after then Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited Yasukuni Shrine, seen in China as a symbol of Japan's past militarism.

The missile destroyer Shenzhen, named after the booming southern Chinese city, docked at Harumi pier, near Tokyo's upscale Ginza shopping district, greeted by hundreds of Chinese residents in Japan waving small Chinese and Japanese flags.

"We looked forward to your visit which would open up a new page in the history of Japan-China military exchange," Japan's chief of naval operations, Eiji Yoshikawa, said.

China's ambassador to Japan, Cui Tiankai, also stressed the significance of the ship's visit in the two countries' relations. *Reuters*

In Burma, arbitrary arrests go on

BANGKOK—AMNESTY INTERnational has condemned ongoing "arbitrary" arrests of dissidents in military-run Burma (Myanmar) two months after the junta's bloody crackdown on peaceful protests.

The arrests were made despite the junta's promise to UN special envoy to Burma Ibrahim Gambari, who visited the country in early November, that there would be no more arrests, the international rights group said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Two months after the violent crackdown on peaceful demonstrators, arrests continue unabated as part of the Burmese government's systematic suppression of freedom of expression and association, contrary to its claims of a return to normalcy," said Catherine Baber, the group's Asia-Pacific Programme Director.

Amnesty said at least 16 people, including Su Su Nway, a prominent labor activist, and Gambira, a Buddhist monk who became a key leader of the massive anti-junta protests in September, had been arrested since early November. *AFP*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
November 29, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	HANKUK EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC. C. Lawis St., Brgy. San Luis, Antipolo City	Mr. Kwanghm Park/ Korean	Teacher
2.	ENGLISH TRAINING INSTITUTE, INC. 2nd Flr. JRC Bldg., A. Mangubat Ave., Burol Main, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Juhyoung Lee/ Korean	Marketing Director
3.	MIRACLE INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES & ALLIED TECHNOLOGIES PHILS., INC. Brgy. Paliparan 2, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Ms. Lucy Buay Choo Koh/ Singaporean	President
4.	PRIMA TECH PHILIPPINES, INC. CPIP, Brgy. Batino, Calamba City	Mr. Chi Hoon Park/ Korean	Sales Manager
5.	SAMKYUNG ELECTRONICS, INC. FCIE, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Choon Sik Yoo/ Korean	Engineering Director

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI - Nov. 29, 2007)

Report: Japan's ex-vice defense chief held

TOKYO—PROSECUTORS ARrested a former top Japanese defense bureaucrat and his wife on Wednesday over allegations he was wined and dined by companies—including one linked to General Electric—in exchange for contracts, news reports said.

Former Vice Defense Minister Takemasa Moriya was arrested after a questioning session in the scandal, which has also been linked to the finance minister, further weakening the two-month-old government of Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, public broadcaster NHK and Kyodo News agency reported.

Investigators also raided Moriya's home to search for more evidence in the bribery allegations, reports said.

The Tokyo District Prosecutors Office refused to confirm the report, but said a statement may be issued later in the day.

Moriya faces allegations he gave favorable treatment in granting contracts to two defense trading companies led by Motonobu Miyazaki, who was arrested earlier this month, along with his two top aides.

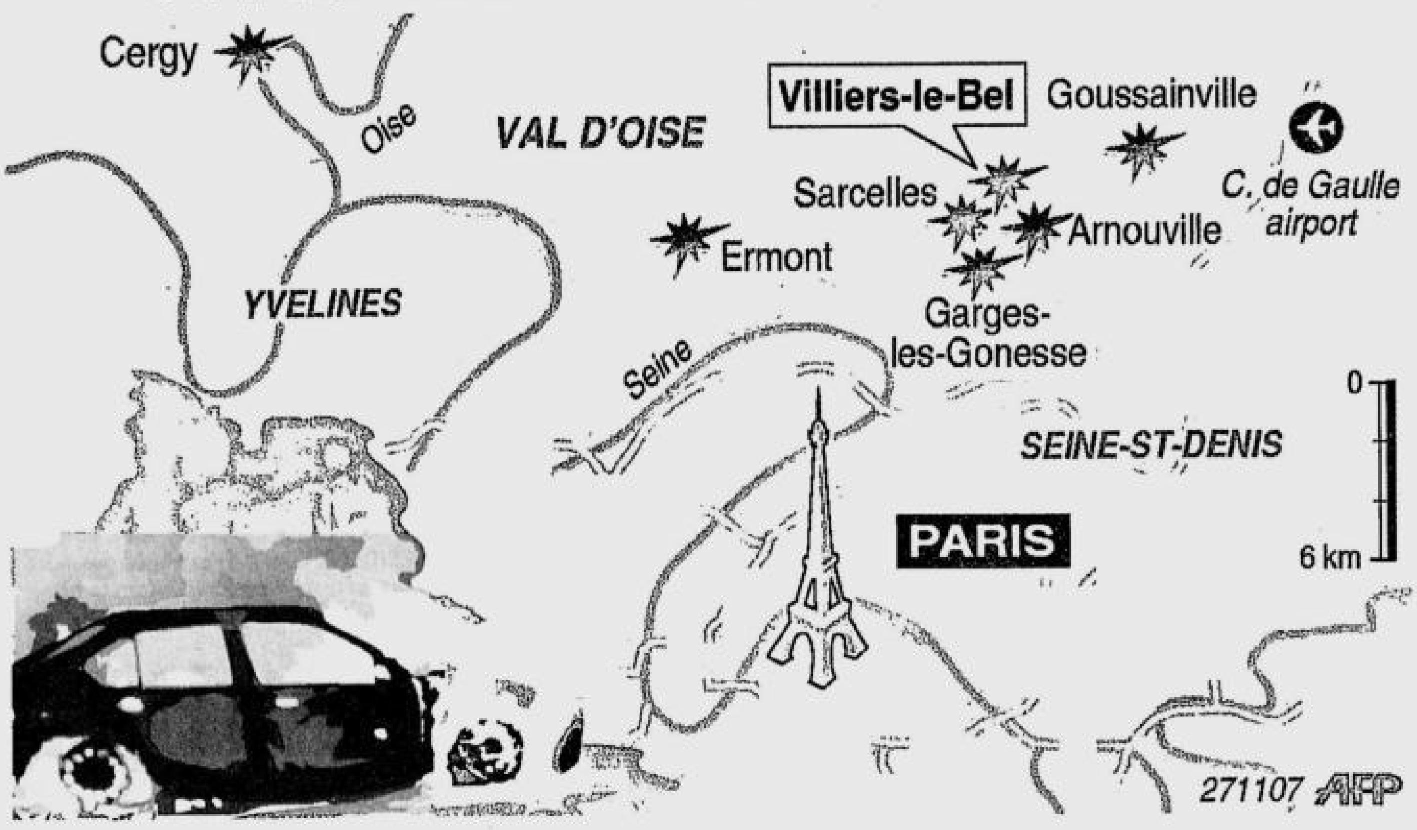
MORIYA AP

Moriya, who retired in August, has acknowledged he was frequently treated to free golf trips with his wife Sachiko, expensive dinners and other gifts by Miyazaki, a former executive of Yamada Yoko Corp., over the past decade, but argued that the gifts were not bribery. Known as "the emperor of the defense agency," Moriya served the ministry's No. 2 post for four years until his retirement in August this year.

Miyazaki, who later left Yamada Yoko and founded his own company Nihon Mirise Corp., also reportedly gave Moriya 200,000 yen ($1,845) in cash as a birthday gift.

In one case Moriya allegedly influenced the ministry's 2004-2005 purchase of five of General Electric Co.'s C-X engines for next generation Japanese cargo aircraft, media reports said. *AP*

Violence in Paris suburbs



271107 AFP

French police clamp down on riot town

VILLIERS-LE-BEL, FRANCE—French authorities deployed 1,000 police to a northern Paris suburb on Tuesday to prevent a third night of youth riots amid signs that the violence could be spreading.

French Prime Minister Francois Fillon went to Villiers-le-Bel, where the deaths of two teenagers on Sunday touched off two nights of violence in which at least 120 police were injured—the worst unrest in the restive suburbs since major riots in 2005.

"The situation is much calmer than the two previous nights but we can all feel that it remains fragile and it requires a strong deterrent force on the ground to stop what happened last night from reoccurring," he said.

"The government will do all it can to ensure that order returns as soon as possible," he said.

There were signs the violence had spread outside the Paris region when about 20 cars were set on fire in Toulouse, and a fire broke out in a library.

Youths threw petrol bombs at police in Les Mureaux, where eight minors were detained for trying to set fire to a bus.

Twenty-two people were detained in Villiers-le-Bel, police said.

For two nights running, young men have hurled petrol bombs and bricks at police, torching cars and buildings in Villiers-le-Bel, where the two youths were killed in a motorbike collision with a police car.

Police said some rioters had fired guns at police and one union said the youths were using "urban guerrilla" tactics.

Faced with the worst eruption of urban violence since the 2005 disturbances, Fillon vowed a beefed-up security presence and promised to "do everything" to stop the violence from spreading across the Paris area. *AFP*

Venezuela recalls envoy to Colombia

CARACAS—VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT Hugo Chavez recalled his ambassador from Colombia on Tuesday, escalating a dispute over Bogota's decision to fire the leftist as mediator in talks with Marxist rebels to free hostages.

The recall heightens tensions after Chavez and President Alvaro Uribe exchanged barbs over the abrupt end last week to his efforts to free captives held for years by FARC rebels, including three Americans and French-Colombian politician Ingrid Betancourt.

"To carry out an exhaustive evaluation of bilateral relations, (the government) has recalled its ambassador from Bogota," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Colombia said it would keep its envoy in Caracas, the first time in days one side has reacted to a move by the other without further escalating the dispute between Andean neighbors with $6 billion in annual trade.

"We are going to keep monitoring this situation to see what happens," Colombia's Foreign Minister Fernando Araujo said.

Chavez's clash with his ideological opposite is his second diplomatic dispute this month. He has frozen ties with Spain after its king told him in public to "shut up."

Chavez also faces this Sunday his toughest vote battle since taking office in 1999 in a referendum on letting him run for reelection indefinitely with polls showing the self-styled socialist revolutionary may lose.

On Sunday, the anti-US leader said he had also frozen relations with Colombia, accused Uribe of lying in the dispute, and warned the spat could hurt cross-border business.

Uribe, a close Washington ally, responded by accusing Chavez of favoring the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, which is still waging Latin America's longest-running rebel insurgency despite security improvements.

In a tough reaction to Uribe's announcement, FARC commander Ivan Marquez said no deal to exchange jailed rebels for key hostages was possible while he was in government.

The governments' spat is the worst since Chavez recalled his ambassador in 2005 after bounty-hunters snatched a Colombian rebel commander from a Caracas street. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Award launched for courageous journalists

THIS undated file photo shows Kate Webb early in her journalism career. AFP

HONG KONG—Agence France-Presse has launched an award to celebrate the life and career of legendary foreign correspondent Kate Webb, who chronicled the wars, disasters and coups that forged modern Asia. The Kate Webb Award, set up in memory of the reporter who died of cancer in her adopted homeland of Australia in May, aims to give a journalist working in Asia the chance to follow in the footsteps of Webb's remarkable career. She covered many of Asia's seminal events of the past four decades, including the fall of Saigon in 1975, the rise of the Khmer Rouge and the assassination of India's Premier Rajiv Gandhi. The award aims to recognize exceptional work produced in dangerous or difficult circumstances, or of outstanding quality, originality or great promise. *AFP*

Female suicide bomber targets Sri Lanka official

COLOMBO—A disabled female suicide bomber with explosives hidden in her bra killed herself in the Sri Lankan capital on Wednesday, wounding at least three security men outside a senior minister's office, officials said. The Tamil Tiger rebel attacker tried to enter the heavily guarded building housing the offices of welfare and social development minister Douglas Devananda, police said. But she was halted and blew herself up outside. The minister, who was inside meeting the public on an open day, escaped unhurt, police added. The blast came a day after Tamil Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran declared that Sri Lankan peace efforts were a waste of time and vowed to strike back at the island's "genocidal" government. *AFP*

Malaysia considers caning for unruly girls

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia is considering allowing schools to cane unruly girls to curb an upsurge in discipline problems including gang fights and bullying, reports said on Wednesday. Currently only boys are caned in Malaysian schools, but only rarely and for serious offenses. The punishment is administered on the buttocks or the palm of the hand. Deputy Education Minister Noh Omar said a national education seminar this week had backed the proposal. Teachers' union secretary-general Loke Yim Pheng told the newspaper schoolgirls were becoming even more unruly than boys. "Girls with hard-core disciplinary problems should be given the hard approach if the soft approach does not work with them any more," she said. Teachers at the national seminar recommended that girls be caned only on their palms and calves, and only by female teachers behind closed doors. *AFP*

Extradite 'Queen of the Pacific,' US asks Mexico

MEXICO CITY—The United States has requested that Mexico extradite Sandra Avila, known as the "Queen of the Pacific," one of its most notorious and glamorous drug smugglers, Mexican officials said on Tuesday. Avila, 45, is accused of helping build up the Sinaloa cartel on Mexico's Pacific Coast in the 1990s using her friendships with the gang's leaders including Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman, Mexico's most wanted man. She was caught in September near her house in the Mexican capital, after a US and Mexican authorities called for her arrest on drug trafficking and money laundering charges. "We received it last week," a Mexican government spokesperson said of the extradition request. Avila won her nickname for helping to develop smuggling routes up Mexico's Pacific Coast into California, as well as through the Arizona desert. *Reuters*

AVILA REUTERS

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Fast and easy personal loan applications!

Happy customers share insights on GE Money Bank's online application channel

Manila, 29 November 2007 - Customers are talking about the online application system of GE Money Bank. Since the launch of its initial facility for personal loans in its website, customers are enjoying the convenience it provides.

John Paul of Cavite, said, "It's interactive! What I like about it is that it's convenient. I don't need to write on paper and visit the branch anymore."

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Pleased with the service that GE Money Bank provided him, he continues by saying, "In the case of GE Money Bank, I could say that they made it much easier for me."

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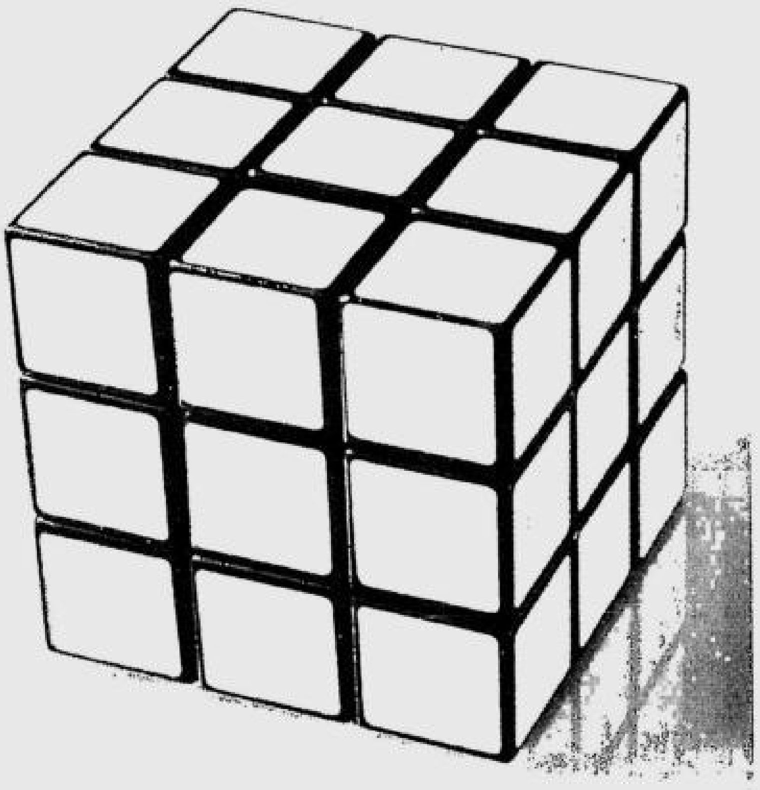

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PRESIDENT Gen. Pervez Musharraf, left, hands over the ceremonial baton to his successor, Gen. Ashfaq Kayani. AP

Finally, goodbye to Army

RAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN—THE BRASS band struck up 'Auld Lang Syne' at a jaunty pace and officers with glinting medals saluted stiffly in the sun. It was hail to the chief, Pakistani-style.

Pervez Musharraf, 46 years in the Army and eight controversial years in the presidency, stepped down on Wednesday as head of Pakistan's half-million-strong military in a ceremony of martial pomp and circumstance.

Bowing to intense international pressure, he handed over the baton of Army command to his chosen successor in order to take a new oath of presidential office as a civilian on Thursday.

"When you have spent half a century in a family, the family of the Pakistan military, a family of solidarity which has given you full loyalty, love and faithfulness, one naturally has sentiments when leaving it," Musharraf said.

'A little sad'

Wearing a green sash over his light khaki uniform and a row of heavy-looking medals pinned to his chest, he confessed in front of hundreds of invited guests and dignitaries that he felt "a little sad." The scene was the Army's hockey stadium in Rawalpindi, the heart of the military establishment's headquarters near the capital Islamabad.

The band, dressed in ceremonial red, white and dark green, played patriotic music as the dignitaries and guests filed in and took their stands in the low stands. Many were also in uniform.

Some fanned themselves or shaded their eyes against the sun. The atmosphere was muted, most of the seats around the stadium left empty except in the main stand.

Then the senior brass and the political elite arrived, including caretaker Prime Minister Mohammedmian Soomro and the speakers of both houses of the now suspended parliament.

Shortly after 10 a.m. (1 p.m. in Manila) buglers announced Musharraf's arrival. He shook the hands of some of his senior officers as his wife Sehba walked to her seat.

To 'Auld Lang Syne,' the traditional Scottish song of farewell, an honor guard escorted Musharraf and his hand-picked successor, Gen. Ashfaq Kiyani, to their positions.

The brass band struck up the national anthem. Everyone in uniform saluted.

In his speech, Musharraf recalled how he had joined the Army in his teens and hailed it as the best in the world, a "binding force" for Pakistan.

Life and passion

"After remaining in uniform for 46 years I am saying goodbye to this Army. This Army is my life, this Army is my passion. I have loved this Army," the general said.

"There are regrets, but in my view there is a system of life, people come and everyone has to go. Even good things have come to an end."

Then came the handover, a short but potent ceremony formally transferring command of the nuclear-armed military.

The cane of office was brought out by soldiers on a brass and wooden stand and set down for several minutes as the band played popular martial tunes.

Musharraf picked up the baton and placed it in Kiyani's outstretched hands. The crowd clapped and the band played 'In the shadow of this flag, we are all one.' All that remained was a quick march past by the troops.

In less than an hour it was all over. *AFP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Li prevails as Chinese bets sizzle /A32

SPORTS

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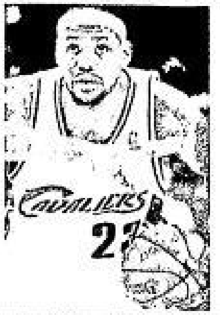
King James humbles Big Three /A35



Trap shooters fall short, take silver

Concepcion bags air pistol bronze

By Musong R. Castillo

BANGKOK, THAILAND—COMMENDABLE, but just a tad short.

The Philippine trap shooting teams failed to sustain a brilliant show Wednesday and settled for the silver medal after two days of the 24th Southeast Asian Games in this busy city.

Jethro Dionisio, Carlos Carag and Eric Ang cut a 13-point overnight deficit to two but sputtered when it mattered most to finish second behind a seasoned Singaporean team that defended the gold medal successfully at the Thailand Target and Clay Ranges here.

Reed-thin veteran Emerito Concepcion, a seven-time SEAG gold medal winner, held on in his final three shots to win the bronze in the men's 10m air pistol in the indoor range a few minutes later.

The RP trap squad totaled only 63 points in their final 25 shots, with the pocket-sized but eagle-eyed Ang firing 22, Dionisio accounting for 21 and Carag chipping in with 20 to total 312 for the tournament and lose by six birds.

Singaporean top gun

Lee Wung Yew, a tall man who is being funded by the Singaporean government with training in Italy all year long, fired 107 total points with Amat Mohd Zain shooting 106 and Choo Choon Seng contributing 105 for 318 to secure Singapore's first gold.

24th SEA GAMES
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All three Singaporeans, incidentally, moved into the individual finals with Seng ousting Carag and the 36-year-old Ang in a shootoff for the sixth and final slot in the medal round.

Ang, an LPG dealer in Laoag who also owns a shooting range there to maintain his edge, and Carag both wound up with 105 totals like Seng.

Malaysia, a rung ahead of the Philippines in second place after the first 75 shots on Tuesday, settled for the bronze medal with a 309 tally but not after chubby, England-trained Chen Seong Fook topped the individual qualifying with a 108 total.

Lethargic debut

The silver was the first medal for the Philippines, which debuted lethargically after its three shooters tumbled out one after the other on Tuesday, and the second straight for the trap team that also had Ang and Dionisio in Manila two years ago.

And it was not a bad effort at all considering how financially strapped the association is back home.

Funding for the trap team came just three months prior to the Games, while Singapore and Malaysia, aside from being exposed to high-caliber events internationally, hit town three weeks before the start to familiarize themselves with the conditions here.

"We can't blame anything or anybody but ourselves," said Carag, who at 45 is the el-

TRAP/ A35

Eagles crush Lancers, nail 'Champs' crown

By jasmine W. Payo

ATENEO GOT BIG SHOTS FROM ITS BIG men as the Blue Eagles clobbered the University of Visayas Green Lancers, 71-54, to capture the Fil-Oil/Flying V National Collegiate Champions League crown yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

Rabeh Al-Hussaini shot a game-high 23 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead the Eagles' second-half onslaught over the

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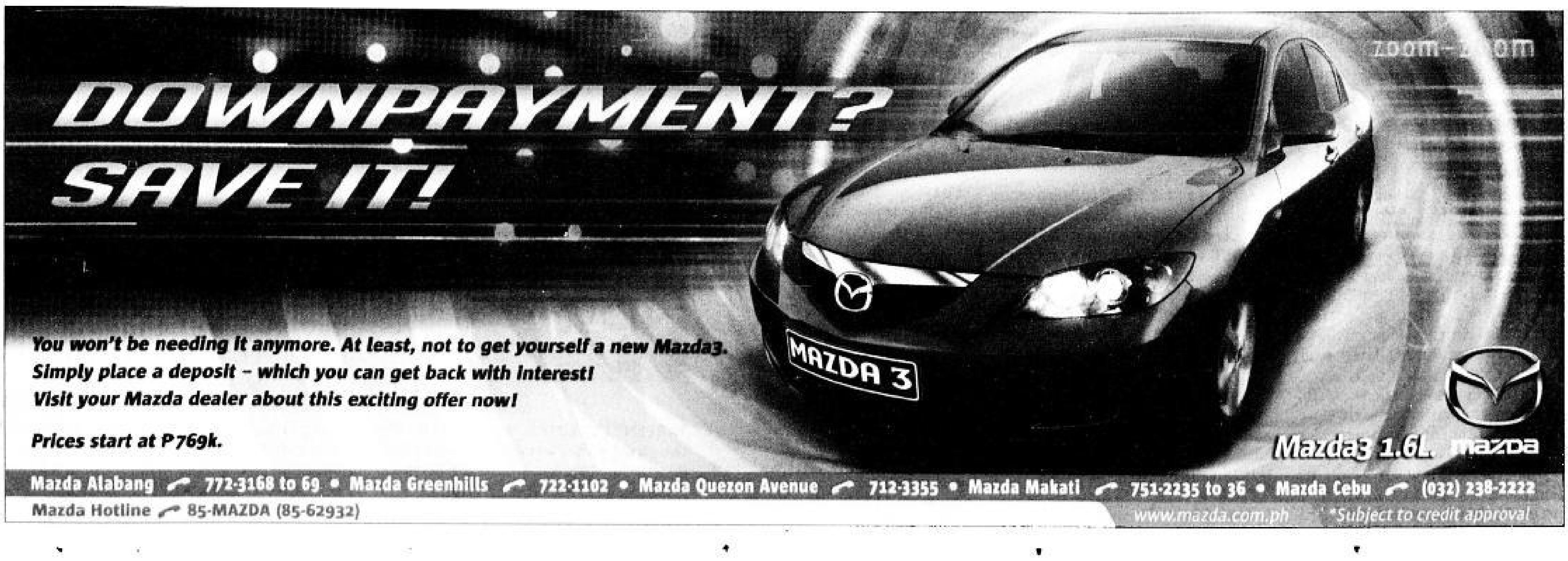

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Young Salud ready to fill Rudy's old spot at PBA

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

CHITO SALUD WAS 26 WHEN HIS DAD, the eminent sportsman Rudy, took the helm of the Philippine Basketball Association and steered it to some of its glorious years.

Back then, the league was secure in its identity—it was a sports and entertainment package built to provide a then mall-deprived populace with some leisure time.

Today, the PBA has two faces. And standing on the verge of the same helm his father once commanded, Chito Salud is confident that even an institution well-entrenched in Filipino pop culture can still reinvent itself to fit in yet another identity—that of national interest.

"It's just a matter of striking a delicate balance; something I really believe can be done," the 45-year-old lawyer told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"Really, the world has become smaller and television has turned our vision to a more global one and I think the ordinary Filipino basketball fan has already accepted that we can no longer ignore the call to be part of the international arena," explained Salud.

The current league legal counsel has accepted his nomination for the post of commissionership with the goal of helping the PBA carve a new niche without totally alienating it from the one it had already established.

Commercial viability

Off the top of his head, Salud said that marketability and commercial viability continue to be the areas where the PBA has to improve on.

"And that brings us back to the games, because the game is the product of this league and unless we have a very good product, all the marketing ploys we can ever think of will mean nothing," Salud said.

And even while still serving as its legal counsel, Salud says he is already trying to polish that product to improve its saleability.

"We have to go back to the basics—exciting format, a more balanced field and an executable officiating philosophy," he said.

But being a self-professed product of the old school, Salud believes there's more to leading the league than just technical know-how. And watching his father from the sidelines gave him valuable insights as to what an ideal leadership should be.

"In everything that he did, my father always made sure that all the member teams were given a fair shake," he said. "There should be no special favors extended to a particular team. Be fair and be firm."

Already, he is living a dream he once thought was not possible: working for the league his father helped shape.

"I agreed to serve as the league's legal counsel to give something back to an institution that has been very good both to its fans and to my family," Salud said. "It's the least I can do."

But his nomination changes all that. Looming before him is the possibility of a bigger task that his father had once performed with aplomb.

And while the nomination honors him no end, Salud said he is not at all daunted at the prospect of actually landing the job.

After all, close to two decades ago, he had an up-close-and-personal look at the correct way the league should be run.

ASI Taulava of Coca Cola gets harassed by Ken Bono of Alaska. *Story on page A24* AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Li prevails as Chinese bets sizzle

Final standings:

7 points -- C. Li (China), H. Ni (China), W. Zhou (China); 6.5 – Z. Zhang (Singapore), **D. Ballecer (RP)**, **M. Paragua (RP)**; 6 – **R. Andador (RP)**; 5.5 – **R. Nolte (RP)**, **W. So (RP)**, **R. Dableo (RP)**, R. Li (China), **O. Dimakiling (RP)**, **J. Gonzales (RP)**, Q. Huang (China), **V. Sevillano (RP)**, **E. Senador (RP)**; 5 – **J. Sadorra (RP)**, Y. Wang (China), **B. Nadera (RP)**, L. Yu (China), J. Zhang (China), **R. Bitoon (RP)**, **E. Torre (RP)**, **H. Nouri (RP)**, D. T. Hai (Vietnam), N. A. Dung (Vietnam), **E. Fernandez (RP)**, Tirto (Indonesia), **O. Barbosa (RP)**, **R. Antonio (RP)**, **R. Bancod (RP)**, N. Situru (Indonesia), **F. Dongulnes (RP)**, **C. Garma (RP)**

By Roy Luarca

THE SUPERIORITY OF CHINESE players again came to the fore in the second President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Cup international open chess championship last night.

It was Li Chao's turn to hold rein as the Chinese, even without their stars, finished 1-2-3 and relegated the Filipinos and other Asian campaigners battling for spoils in the nine-round tournament held at the Duty Free Fiesta Mall in Parañaque City.

Top seed Grandmaster Ni Hua and No. 11 Weiqi Zhou actually matched Li's 7.0 points, but settled for second and third after the tie break was applied. The trio, however, split the top three purses and pocketed $5.000 each

Li, an 18-year-old from Tai Yuan province who is ranked third in the event with his Elo of 2548, halved the point with Mark Paragua after 28 moves of the Sicilia, relegating the Filipino GM to sixth place behind GM Zhang Zhong, another Chinese now carrying Singapore's colors; and National Master Dino Ballecer, the best placed Filipino at fifth.

Li finished with six wins, two draws and only one loss.

Ni, co-champion in the Philippine International Open held in Subic early this year, drew with Zhang in 32 moves of the Ruy Lopez, while Weiqi bested NM Rolando Andador in 31 moves of the French.

Zhong took fourth with 6.5 points, the same score of Ballecer, a veteran campaigner from La Union, and Paragua, formerly the country's highest rated player.

RP bets recover, but Thais pull away

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—HOST Philippines moved up to third from last place only to see Thailand pull farther away after the second round of the Putra Cup yesterday at the exclusive The Country Club course here.

With Abe Rosal Jr. taking over from Bong Lopez as coach for the day, the Filipinos somewhat improved to 218 from 222 but the Thais, with Kiradech Aphibarnrat firing a tournament best two-under-par 68, stormed ahead of the host players by 13 strokes with a 36-hole 427 total.

Mark Fernando accounted for the host country's best score so far of one-over 71, veteran Jay Bayron carded a 73 and Jhonnel Ababa settled for a 74 due to an error as the Filipinos wound up at 440 in a tie for third with the Malaysians.

Singapore kept second place, now six strokes behind Thailand, as top player Quincy Quek matched par 70 and Zhiqun Lam and Dengshan Kok carded a pair of 73s for a 433.

"Pahiyang lang (Just for a change)," said Caloy Coscolluela of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines of the decision to tap Rosal in favor of Lopez.

While the coaching switch did not achieve huge results, the fact that the Filipinos fared less miserably than in the first round showed there was a glimmer of hope they could pull off a big comeback in the last two rounds.

Aphibarnrat, whose 73 failed to count for Thailand's first round output of 212, redeemed himself by gunning down two birdies in the last five holes.

Varan Israbhakdi and first round top scorer Varut Chomchalam put in a 71 and 76, respectively, as the Thais underscored their readiness for the SEA Games which they will host next month.

Aphibarnrat also took the lead in the individual race with a 141, one shot ahead of Israbhakdi while Fernando jumped from 12th to joint fifth with with Chomchalam at 145. *Ernie Gonzales*

Alcano-Ochoa tops mixed doubles

DOUBLE WORLD CHAMPION Ronnie Alcano carried his gorgeous partner to victory in the San Miguel Corporation Mixed Doubles Championship Saturday at Gerry's Grill in Subic.

Alcano and model Ciel Mae Ochoa got the better of Jundel Mazon and Niña Pangilinan in the title match.

The crowd at Waterfront Road got a double treat, getting doses of world-class plays from world-class players and shapely Filipino beauties in the event aptly titled "Beauty and the Best."

"It's nice to play pool pressure-free," said Alcano, last year's World Pool Championship winner and the reigning world champion in 8-ball. "Of course, it's better if you're playing with beautiful ladies."

The single elimination event which used the winner's break format was organized by Bugsy Promotions of Perry Mariano.

ALCANO

Meanwhile, the main draw of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) 8-ball Tour unfolds on Nov. 30 in Lucena City .

Favored to win the title and the P50,000 prize are Bugsy players Roberto Gomez, Dennis Orcollo and Jeffrey de Luna. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

SPORTSWATCH

Batch 93 takes opening game

BATCH '93 OF THE SOUTHRIDGE NIGHT School won its opening game in the first Mario D. Camacho Alumni Cup over Batch '99, 87-76, over the weekend at the school's grounds in Alabang.

Deo Calasicas, Raymond Leyva and Business Mirror's Joel Orellana combined forces in helping their team notched the victory over their younger rivals.

In other games, Batch '95 prevailed over '01, 62-58 while Batch '98 defeated the combined team of Batches '92, '94 and '96. 61-50. Batch '04 beat Batch '02, 56-51.

Okazaki to visit RP

DAVID LAY JR., CHIEF INSTRUCTOR OF the Karate Development Arts & Sports, led a three-man team that competed in the ISKF/US National Karate Championship Goodwill Games in San Francisco in October.

The team also met ISKF's chair and chief instructor Sensei Teruyuki Okazaki to finalize the Philippines' membership in the ISKF.

The International Shotokan Karate Federation (ISKF) has over 50,000 members in 28 countries. ISKF's goal is the promulgation of true Japanese karate-do as espoused by the founder of modern karate Gichin Funakoshi.

Okazaki, is set to visit the Philippines in February 2008 to grace the 1st Okazaki Cup tournament.

WOMEN'S TEAM: The RP women's basketball squad led by coach Fritz Gaston (left) at the plant of Burlington Industries Phils. Inc. in Makati City. The second place finishers in the Seaba women's competition in Phuket, Thailand, in September paid a courtesy call on Burlington GM Ruddy Tan (right).

David wins; Mendoza loses

FILIPINO BETS RENE MAR DAVID AND Mark Aristotle Mendoza took different routes in the early stages of the 2007 WPA World Youth 9-Ball for juniors and girls late Tuesday at the Sauerland Stern Hotel in Willingen, Germany.

After getting a bye in stage 1, the 17-year-old David, from Barangay Botocan, Quezon City, rallied from a 1-3 deficit to stun Michal Czarnecki of Poland, 9-5, and advance to the winner's brackets.

The 18-year-old Mendoza, from Hulo, Mandaluyong City, beat Paul Everette of Canada, 9-5, in stage 1 but yielded to three-time defending champion Wu Yu-lun of Taiwan, 9-6, and was relegated to the loser's brackets.

In the distaff side, defending champion Filipino-American Mary Rakin of the United States bowed to Denise Wilkinson of New Zealand, 7-4.

Despite Mendoza's defeat, Negros Billiard Stable coach/manager Christoper Palses is optimistic that his ward can bounce back in contention.

Mendoza will next play against Stephen Lammens of Belgium in a must-win situation. David, on the other hand, takes on Tomoya Lima of Japan in the winner's brackets.

Lammens is coming off a lost to American Christopher Futrell, 9-4, while Lima won over American Landon Shuffett, 9-5, and Korean Kang Lee, 9-4. *Marlon Bernardino*

Ateneo bags 'Champs' crown

From page A31

seven-time Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation Inc. (Cesafi) champions.

"It's a very sweet win for us; I didn't really know what to expect going into the tournament," said Ateneo mentor Norman Black, named Best Coach of the tournament. "There was so much concentration on this game on the big men of UV but Rabeh played really well today."

Al-Hussaini also received a Mythical Team citation along with teammates Chris Tiu and tournament Most Valuable Player Nonoy Baclao.

Tiu—who will suit up for the national men's team in the Southeast Asian Games next week—got the Eagles off to an early lead to finish with 11 points, 12 boards and six assists.

Earlier, the STI Olympians stunned the UST Tigers, 87-81, in overtime to clinch the third spot.

The Eagles, who also won a scholarship fund worth P500,000, dominated the paint in the second half even with 6-foot-11 Fil-Am Gregory Slaughter and 6-foot-6 Rino Berame on the floor at the same time.

"This is our first time to play a Finals game in Manila; the home court advantage was a really big factor," said Lancers coach Boy Cabahug.

The scores:

First Game

STI 87—Balneg 22, Mlcutuan 13, Tolentino 10, Mabayo 10, Mendoza 9, Porto 6, Macabasco 5, Cabangon 5, Flor 4, Tiongco 3, Reyes 0, Dimas 0, Bartolome 0.

UST 81—Cruz 21, Ababou 20, Mirza 11, Taylor 10, Canlas 6, Cuan 6, Allera 5, Cortez 2, Badua 0, Gile 0.

Quarters: 16-18, 31-32, 50-49, 73-73 (reg), 87-81 (OT)

Second Game

ATENEO 71—Al-Hussaini 23, Tiu 11, Arao 9, Long 8, Baclao 7, Salamat 5, Barracoso 4, Escueta 4, Baldos 0, Austria 0.

UNIV. OF VISAYAS 54—Laneta 13, Dennison 9, Luga 8, Diputado 8, Mepaña 6, Berame 6, Tancongco 4, Villanil 0, Slaughter 0.

Quarters: 21-12, 32-26, 51-40, 71-54

HITACHI
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TABLENET CHAMPS: Members of the Nittaku-Ningbo Jun Chang Steel Club of China display their trophy after winning the men's 35 to 49-year-old championship in the recent Philippine International Veterans Table Tennis championships supported by Hitachi Phils. through its president Leo Hsieh (right). With them is Filipino-Chinese Amateur Athletic Federation executive vice president Angel Ngo.

Road Kings cautious of Bacchus Raiders

GAMES TODAY
(The Arena)
12 nn—Harbour Centre vs San Mig Coffee
2 p.m.—Toyota Balintawak vs Bacchus
4 p.m.—Pharex vs Mail and More

TOYOTA BALINTAWAK EXPECTS tough competition from the eliminated Bacchus when it vies for the last quarterfinal incentive in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup.

"Bacchus almost won its last two games, so we can't take them for granted," said Toyota coach Ariel Vanguardia. "I'm sure they're fired up. They're playing with no pressure."

Leading Pool B with a 5-4 record, the Road Kings will shoot for the twice-to-beat edge at the end of the pool round at 2 p.m. today at The Arena in San Juan.

But if Toyota Balintawak loses and Mail and More beats Pharex at 4 p.m., the Road Kings and the Comets will dispute the quarterfinal bonus in a playoff on Saturday.

Harbour Centre, an early semifinalist along with idle Hapee, will wrap up Pool A action against San Mig Coffee at noon.

The Coffee Kings already claimed the first quarterfinal bonus after securing a Pool A slot last week.

Erwin Sta. Maria towed the Road Kings to a 78-66 victory over the Comets the other day to gain headway in the Pool B race.

The Raiders seemed headed for their first win before collapsing in the closing minutes of an 83-79 overtime setback against Pharex last Tuesday.

The ninth loss ended the Raiders' bid to advance to the quarterfinal round.

Meanwhile, the league will take a break next week in support of the Harbour-Philippine Team vying in the 24th SEA Games in Thailand. *Jasmine W. Payo*

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MOTORING TIPS

Preparing for the road ahead

It is better to be prepared than sorry. When going on long road trips, take the necessary precautions. These following tips will help you reach your destination safely and hassle-free.

Check road conditions and weather in advance

Check the newspaper or online sites for any traffic and re-routing advisory to roads leading to your destination. Also plan an alternative route ahead and check for weather forecast before the trip.

Take regular breaks

Stop at least once every two hours, especially if you are tired or sleepy. Find a safe place, pull over and take a short rest or nap. Drink coffee or energy drink to keep you active and alert while driving.

Hands on the wheel not on your phone

Bring your mobile phone in case of emergency but use a hands-free device when making or receiving an important call. If possible, let other passengers make or receive the call. Better yet, pull over where it's safe. Store important numbers in your mobile phone such as the police, hospital emergency, and towing service hotlines.

Do not drink and drive

Drinking alcohol reduces your reflexes and affects your judgment. Also eating too much will leave you tired or sleepy when driving.

Suzuki Philippines, known for its quality, high-performance yet fuel efficient vehicles, affordability, safety and environment-friendliness, not only promotes driving convenience and efficiency but also advocates responsible driving to motorists all over the country.

Donaire seeks to validate status

A PRESS CONFERENCE was held in New York yesterday to drum up interest for this Sunday's Showtime Championship Boxing promoted by Gary Shaw Productions.

The three scheduled 12-round fights will be televised live from Foxwoods Resort Casino, beginning at 9 p.m. ET/PT and will be aired in the Philippines on Sunday over Solar Sports and GMA-7.

World flyweight champion Nonito Donaire motored to Foxwoods Casino in Connecticut after the press conference then run on the treadmill shortly after arrival.

"I still have a lot to prove," the Arthro Kontra Arthritis-backed Donaire said. "People call me a one hit wonder. But I will continue to fight to build my name and prove myself." *Salven L. Lagumbay*

Executive chess 8th leg Dec. 1

THE 8TH LEG OF the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) Executive and Professionals Chess Challenge will take place on Dec. 1 at the Greenhouse Grill, Diliman, Quezon City.

This was announced by NCFP executive director lawyer Sammy Estimo as many executives have confirmed their participation in the event initiated by NCFP chair Rep. Matias Defensor.

It is being supported by sportsman Bombi Aznar, NCFP vice president Ed Madrid and directors Benguet Governor Raul Molintas, Gen. Art Carillo and Jess Torre.

For details, call Grandmaster Eugene Torre at 09228822870, Dr. Jenny Mayor at 09194782209 or Estimo at 09159360354.

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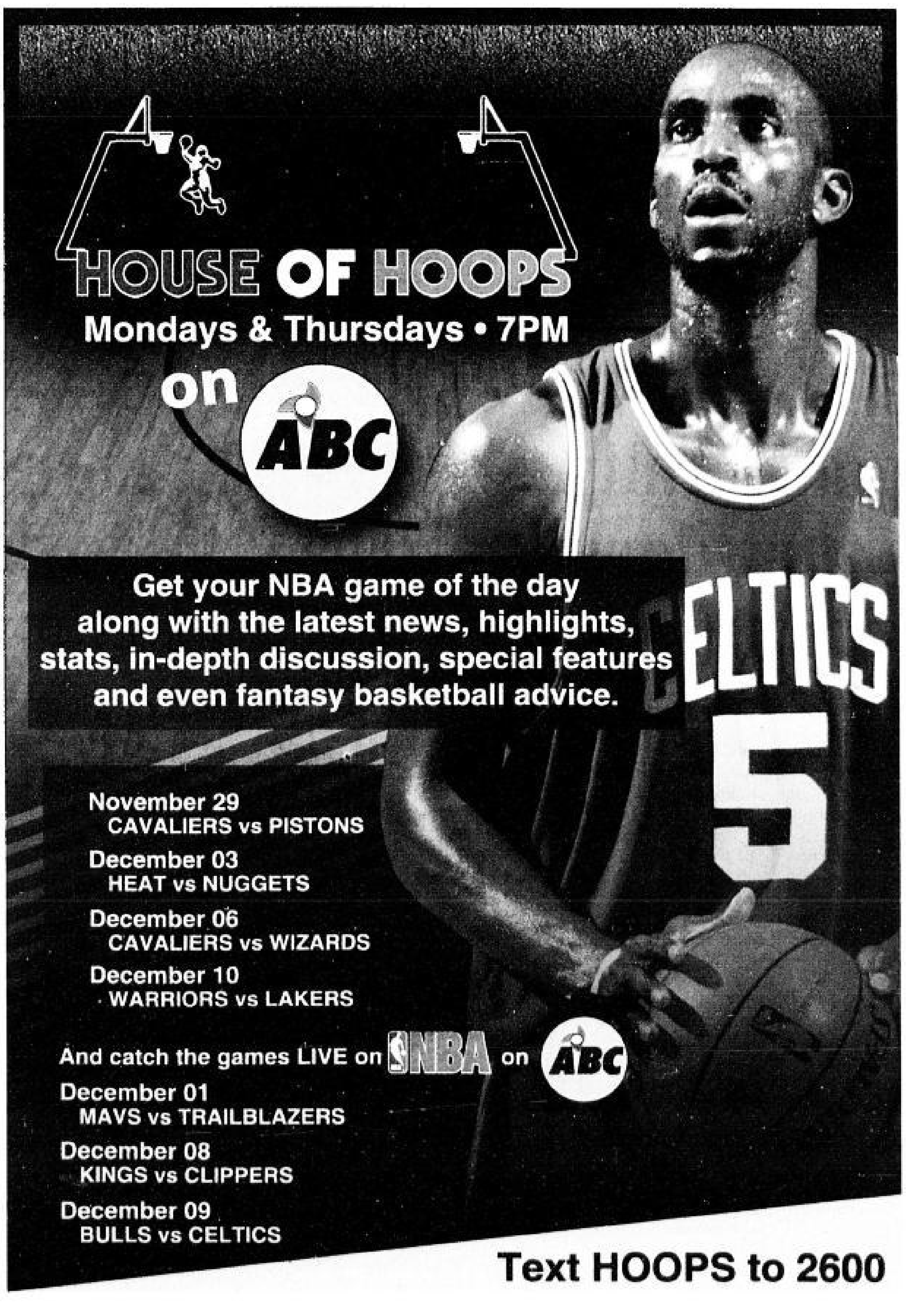
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A tennis date in Macau

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

THE INVITATION was hard to resist.

Lifestyle columnist and Crush Advertising exec Rod Nepomuceno said Jojo Neri Estacio, head of Skycable's newest sports channel "Balls," was treating two media people to the Pete Sampras-Roger Federer exhibition match in Macau over the weekend.

He asked if I wanted to come.

The Macau match was the third and last in a three-city tour that included Seoul and Kuala Lumpur. Federer won the first two matches. The papers said the retired 36-year-old Sampras was hoping to win even only one set against the world's No. 1 who is 10 years his junior.

Among those lured by this "must see" event for tennis aficionados were singer-composer Jose Mari Chan and former Sen. Loi Ejercito Estrada, who flew to Macau to watch the battle between the two legends.

According to PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad, who was also in Macau to cover the event for GMA 7, Senator Loi, who was with her "amigas," used to play the sport very actively before she got too busy with politics.

***

Friday at high noon, we were flying to Hong Kong—Rod, Julie Santiago of ABS-CBN-CCPMG (Cable Channels and Print Media Group), Maris Barredo of Carat Advertising, one of two raffle winners of a roadshow trade presentation sponsored by ABS-CBN, and myself.

The first batch to fly in earlier that day was made up of Jojo Estacio, Chris Lopez, also of ABS-CBN CCPMG; Sol Racelis of Mindshare Advertising, the other winner of a ticket to the "Venetian Macao Tennis Showdown;" and Ernie Lopez, younger brother of Gabby.

Ernie, who is very athletic, down to earth and always wears an engaging smile on his golden-tanned face, heads the print media side of CCPMG.

***

Over coffee later that day, Jojo gave me a brief background of what "Balls" was all about.

For the first two years at least, Jojo said they would be showing foreign sports materials, which are not shown in other sports cable channels.

They had aired live over "Balls" the three Sampras-Federer matches, including the last in Macau, which was won by sentimental favorite Pistol Pete Sampras.

"Our next big project is the LPGA," said Jojo, who added that the new cable channel debuted last Nov. 7.

***

A staunch tennis buff, Ernie Lopez, admitted that he was one of those who had not expected Sampras to win a single set.

But like the rest of the sellout crowd in the 15,000-seat Venetian Arena, he was delighted to be proven wrong.

Sampras turned back the clock last Saturday to upset Federer. He won not only the first set but also the second as well, taking the match, 7-6 (10-8), 6-4. It was a very popular win.

"I picked up a few points here and there—one for the old guy, I guess," said Pistol Pete over the microphone after the game.

"I'm happy that I was able to win, but let's not get carried away. The court was very fast, Roger's had a long, long year—a great year."

No, making a comeback was farthest from his mind.

Federer, on the other hand, said that it was tough beating his childhood hero.

"I hope we can do it again," said Federer, who spent a whole week with his childhood idol, whose records he will most likely break, including the number of grand slam singles titles and the six years that he finished on top of the ATP rankings.

Sampras retired in 2003 with 14 grand slams. Roger currently has 12 and has been on top of the ATP ratings since 2002.

Over the week, two of the world's greatest tennis players developed a close bond as they got to know each other.

"I wish there was a camera to watch Roger, he's a prankster, a joker. We spent a lot of time together. I hung out in his room for a few hours and on the plane, and tonight I'm going to get him on the blackjack table," Sampras said.

The question foremost in everyone's mind at the end of the day was, if the two had competed at their prime, who would be the better player?

Luckless draw puts RP Olympic bids in peril

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HO CHI MINH CITY—THE LUCK of the draw dealt the Philippines' bid to qualify for the Beijing Olympics a major blow Tuesday night as all three taekwondo jins ended up with tough first-round assignments here.

Of the three, Alexander Briones drew the worst possible first-rounder, one that lined him up right away against reigning Olympic champion and former world titlist Hadi Saei Bonehkohal of Iran in the male -80kg category.

Briones takes on Bonehkohal Friday.

Ironically, Briones' weight category should have been easy because only five fighters are entered there in this Asian qualification event. That meant that all he had to do was draw an unfancied foe, advance to the semifinals and forge a win there to book a ticket to Beijing.

Bronze medalists in this event get Olympic slots.

But as fate would have it, the 23-year-old Briones will have to find a way past the fearsome Iranian to just make the semifinals.

"I'm OK now, although my initial reaction was different," Briones said in Filipino, when asked about his thoughts about the draw that sent him straight into the path of the tall and brooding 31-year-old Iranian.

National coach Rocky Samson pointed out that the Iranian isn't exactly invincible, but it's going to take a huge performance to mount an upset.

During the World Qualifying in Manchester, Bonehkohal was booted out of the medal round by another world champion, Steven Lopez of the United States.

Kirstie Elaine Alora wasn't as lucky in the lottery as she drew hometown bet Hoai Thu Nguyen Thi for a first-round assignment.

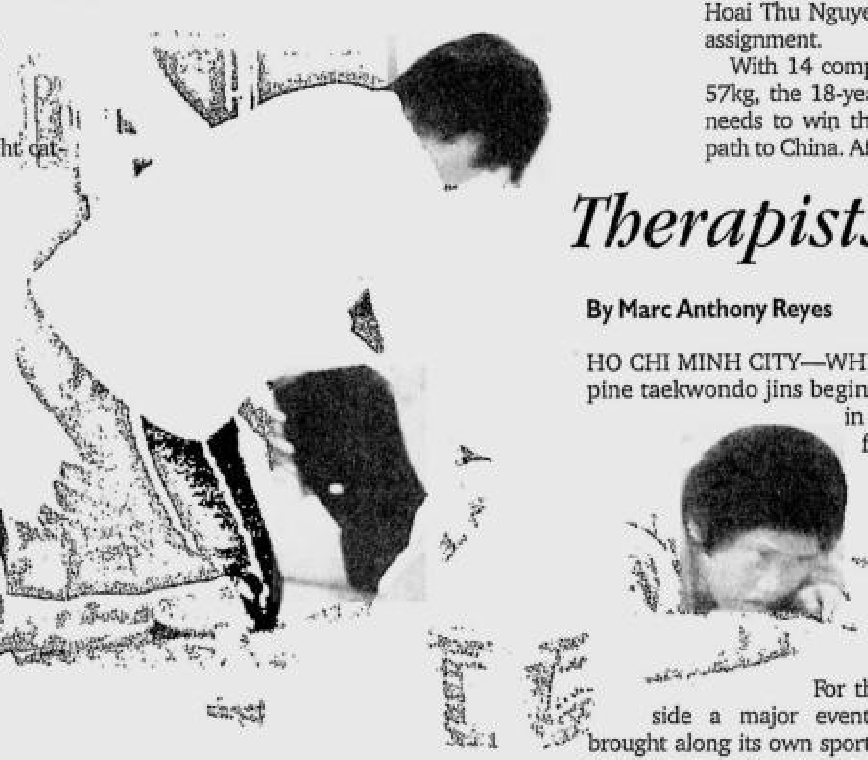
With 14 competitors in the female -57kg, the 18-year-old from St. Benilde needs to win three matches to beat a path to China. After the Vietnamese, she will have to get past the winner of India-Lebanon and hopefully avoid the favored Chinese-Taipei bet in the semis.

There are only nine bets in the female -67kg class but Olympic veteran Mary Antoinette Rivero also won't be having a leisure walk through the draw sheet.

Up against her is Nepal's Manita Sahi, who shared the Doha Asian Games 64kg bronze medal with Filipino Veronica Domingo last year.

Standing in the way in the semis is either Uzbekistan's Evgeniya Karimova, the Asian Games silver winner in the +72kg, or Iran's Soheila Sayahi, whom Rivero shared a bronze with during last year's Korean Open.

The RP jins' dream of taking their place in next year's Olympics is supported by Smart/PLDT, Petron and the Philippine Sports Commission.



A THERAPIST works on Kirstie Elaine Alora after a round of training for her Olympic-qualifying bid.

MARC ANTHONY REYES

Therapists help jins limber up

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HO CHI MINH CITY—WHEN THE PHILIPPINE taekwondo jins begin flexing muscles in the Asian qualifying for the Olympics later this week, there will be somebody who will be flexing it for them—literally.

For the first time outside a major event, the RP team brought along its own sports massage therapist here to make sure the three jins—Mary Antoinette Rivero, Kathleen Elaine Alora and Alexander Briones—remain in great shape when they seek slots for next year's Beijing Games.

The Philippines usually sends a full medical team only during multievents like the Olympics, Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games. But in keeping with the concerted drive to nail the first Olympic gold medal, Philippine Taekwondo Association requested one for this event.

"We focus on improving the performance of the athletes, and after the competition, make sure they recover quickly," said Nick Sagayno, one of the seven therapists of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine. "Among sports, taekwondo is the most 'toxic' being a combat one; there is a lot of physical burnout involved."

PTA executive vice president Sung Chon Hong said almost all the countries bring their masseurs during competitions, but due to financial constraints this is the first time the Philippines brought its own in a lower level meet.

Explorers turn back Pacman five, claim NBC Invt'l crown

TAGAYTAY CITY—IT WAS A MATTER of pride, with a little bit of vengeance thrown into it.

With that, the Pagadian Explorers squeaked past Manny Pacquiao's MP Gensan Pacman Warriors, 79-74, Tuesday to rule the 2007 Tagaytay-NBC International Invitational Cup basketball tournament at the Tolentino Sports and Activity Center here.

Mel Latoreno powered the Explorers of Mayor Sammy Co to victory with a game-high 25 points.

But it was more than just the offensive heroics of the former UST standout that saved the day for Pagadian.

"I told my players that this game is all about pride," said Pagadian coach Bong dela Cruz. "They (Warriors) beat us in the eliminations and we don't want that to happen again. I'm glad we turned the tables in the game that mattered."

The explorers buried 12 straight points in a telling run midway through the fourth period, one that broke a 58-all count and gave Pagadian a 70-58 spread in the battle between the two southern-based squads.

Gensan halted the run as Apol Coronado completed a three-point play off Rex Quilo, but by then things were pretty much over.

Still, the Warriors of the country's boxing icon threatened at 74-73, 17.3 seconds left, but Latoreno and eventual MVP Percius Sinco drove the cushion baskets that made it 79-74.

Sinco was joined by Michael Orquillas, Gensan's Rolly Menor, Davao's Dado Ayson and Tagaytay's Danny Capobres in the Mythical Team.

Earlier, Tagaytay-Spring Cooking Oil trimmed Davao-Montana Pawnshop, 75-68, to clinch third spot. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

The scores:

TAGAYTAY 75—Tajonera 15, Marquez 13, Capobres 12, Villamin 12, De Castro 9, Cuenca 6, Guiyab 3, Reyes 2, Yambao 2, Miranda 1

DAVAO 68—Lamocha 14, Abanes 11, Braga 9, Fernandez 9, Dawal 6, Canlas 5, Ayson 5, Clavel 4, Quibod 3, Poloyapoy 2

Quarters: 13-17, 33-31, 52-46, 75-68

PAGADIAN 79—Latoreno 25, Quilo 13, Villaver 9, Sinco 8, Ayuk 5, Benitez 5, Espiritu 4, Naron 3, Orquillas 2, Santiago 2, Saludsod 2, Sierra 1

GENSAN 74—Rubi 17, Tadena 12, Recustodio 10, Daja 10, Menor 10, Coronado 6, Farochilen 3, Locsin 2, Lumantas 2, Medalla 2

Quarters: 16-24, 31-36, 56-54, 79-74

QC eyed as center of RP sports tourism

IF WE HAVE MEDICAL TOURISM, WE CAN also have sports tourism.

This was the statement made yesterday by Quezon City Majority Floor Leader Ariel Inton before the media to push his pet program of making Quezon City as the Philippine center of sports tourism.

"Araneta Coliseum, known to have hosted several international sports activities, is located in Quezon City and it is only fitting that the sports tourism starts here," said Inton.

He said the offer of Mayor Sonny Belmonte to the Philippine Basketball Association to have a permanent place in Quezon City is a good starting point.

According to Inton, sports tourism will boost business and employment in the city by generating more investments as well as attracting more local and foreign visitors.

"The World Pool Championships recently hosted by the city is a great success," Inton said. "The experience taught us that indeed we can be a venue for big sports events."

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

CJH mounts rally, forges showdown vs Golden Oats

BAGUIO CITY—CAMP JOHN HAY GC I outscored Golden Oats Plus yesterday to pave the way for a final-round showdown for the Fil championship division crown of the 58th Fil-Am Seniors Golf Invitational here.

Fred Puckett matched the 38 points of national seniors champion and Golden Oats spearhead Iggy Clavecilla and retir ed General Nelson Eslao made 31 as the host team assembled 123 points to move within four of the lead with a 229 total.

A pair of 27s from Jong Won Park and Swede Bjorn Andersson completed scoring for the CJH squad with retired police general Clyde Cabreros failing to count with a 23 under the five-to-play, four-to-count format.

Golden Oats pooled 120 for the day for a 233 total as Bing Bunye and Eduardo Sison contributed 27 points each and Alfredo Mendoza rounded out the team score with a 24.

"We're still confident of winning tomorrow's finale," said team captain Eugene Arresgado of Golden Oats, which is bidding for a fourth straight title.

Eastridge was a distant third with 188 after a 97.

Bong Mandapat shot his second 29 to lead Camp John Hay GC I anew to a 99-point production for a 203 total in the Am Championship flight.

The John Hay squad pulled away by nine over Nueva Ecija GC, which scored its second 97 points for 194. Manila Southwoods was third with 93 for 187.

Meanwhile, Elpidio Ong of the JJ Golf Team dropped a rare ace at the designated No. 16 hole of BCC. He used a Callaway five iron and a Titleist Pro-V 1 No. 3 ball.

IGGY Clavecilla ponders his next shot.

Koreans sweep Am Tour 5th leg

LONG-HITTING CHUN IL JIN SIZZLED with a four-under-par 68 yesterday and stormed past Tonlits Asistio for the championship division crown of the Pilipinas Amateur Tour's fifth leg at the Sherwood Hills Golf and Country Club in Trece Martires, Cavite.

Down by three at the start of the day, Chun mastered the windswept course to win by two strokes over first-day leader Asistio who carded a respectable 73 in the culmination of the course-hopping series presented by Samsung.

Chun finished with a 36-hole aggregate of 145 against the 147 of the young Asistio. Ok Jae Sung placed third after a 73-151 while Erwin Vinluan (75) and Park Jung Soo (73) tied for fourth at 152.

Kwon Ye Seul, the 15-year-old former winner of the National Tournament of Club Champions, completed a Korean sweep of the major titles by taking the ladies' Class A crown. She torched the course with a 66-139 to beat Regina de Guzman (69-144) by five.

Jeric Ang, Larry Tojino, Anton Aguas, Bueno Macatangay and Grace Superal were the other winners of the event.

Tojino (81-161) bucked a big rally by Thirdy Escano and Kang Buk Sum to win Class A by one while Ang (88-175) took the Class B plum by two shots over Roberto Lim.

King James humbles Big Three

Cavs bring down mighty Celtics; Sixers halt Bucks

CLEVELAND main man LeBron James (left) soars past Kevin Garnett and his Boston Celtics.

AFP

CLEVELAND—LEBRON JAMES PROVIDED THE SPARK IN OVERTIME TO LIFT the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 109-104 home win over Boston on Tuesday, just the Celtics' second loss of the season.

James scored 11 of his 38 points in overtime and tallied 13 assists as the Cavs won their third in a row and dropped the Celtics to 11-2.

"It's definitely a big win," James said after the first meeting between the teams in a span of six days. "We were down and we were up and we found a way to win, so it was big."

But James was not getting carried away with the win over the red-hot Celtics.

"We just want to get wins and continue to win," he said.

"It's November and there are no statement wins in November."

Boston's Ray Allen scored 29 points but missed two free throws with 23.1 seconds remaining in regulation with the game tied.

James missed a chance to win in regulation but took over in the extra five minutes.

"He was great, he was fantastic," said Boston coach Doc Rivers. "He made big shots and that's who he is. He's just a fantastic player."

Kevin Garnett scored 19 points and Paul Pierce 16 for the Celtics, who host the Cavaliers on Sunday.

In Miami, Ricky Davis and Jason Williams responded to being yanked from the starting lineup with strong games off the bench to lead the struggling Heat past the Charlotte Bobcats, 110-90.

Davis equaled a season high with 23 points, while Williams totaled 11 points and eight assists.

GAMES TODAY (Basketball TV)
9:30 a.m.—Washington vs San Antonio (*replay at 9 p.m.*)

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Pau Gasol scored 22 points and Juan Carlos Navarro had 16 points and 11 rebounds as Memphis posted consecutive wins for the first time this season by clipping the Nets, 110-103.

In Milwaukee, Andre Iguodala, Samuel Dalembert and Kyle Korver combined for 62 points and Philadelphia snapped Milwaukee's five-game winning streak via a 114-99 rout.

The 76ers' win also snapped the Bucks' 6-0 mark this season at the Bradley Center, leaving just Boston (7-0) and San Antonio (8-0) as the league's perfect teams at home.

For a change, everything went right for Philadelphia, which lost seven of its previous eight in its worst start since 1995, even after squandering a 14-point lead.

In Chicago, Luol Deng scored 22 points, Ben Gordon added 21, and the gasping Bulls snapped their four-game losing streak by clubbing a listless Atlanta Hawks squad, 90-78.

The Bulls desperately needed the win after a 1-5 trip left them with the worst record in the Eastern Conference, and it came against a team they've dominated in recent seasons.

In Denver, Mike Dunleavy scored 30 points, Shawne Williams had 21 and Indiana held off the Nuggets, 112-110.

The Pacers led 106-97 with a minute left but didn't secure the win until JR Smith missed a free throw with 2.7 seconds left and Indiana leading, 111-110.

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored six of his 35 points in the final 3:51 and the Los Angeles Lakers beat Seattle, 106-99, Tuesday night, snapping a three-game skid and sending the SuperSonics to their fifth straight loss.

Gold still eludes Jethro

By Musong R. Castillo

DIONISIO: Aiming for Olympics

BANGKOK, THAILAND—ONCE KNOWN as the Fastest Gun Alive, Jethro Dionisio is taking a long time gunning down a first Southeast Asian Games gold medal.

"I think it will take some time, but I won't stop," Dionisio said Wednesday minutes after helping the Philippines to the silver medal in the men's team trap shooting event at the Thailand Target and Clay Ranges here.

"The only thing lacking (for me) at this time is consistency," Dionisio, 36 and a father to twin girls who were recently born, added. "But I'll get there. I just need to practice some more and campaign more internationally."

Dionisio rose to world fame and put the Philippines in the shooting map in the last decade by winning the Fastest Gun Alive contest five times in a six-year span from 1990.

But he has not campaigned in that event, known more internationally as practical shooting, since 1999, not because he has lost any craving to win, but because it is not in the Olympic Games' roster.

"It is not an Olympic event," he explained. "Right now, my goal is to make the Olympics and hopefully win a medal there."

Dionisio leaves for the Philippines tomorrow, will hug his twins and two elder daughters, before leaving anew together with teammate Eric Ang to compete in the Asian championships in Kuwait.

"That will be our last chance to make the (Beijing) Olympics," Dionisio, who saw action in Athens, Greece, four years ago but failed to make the trap finals, said. "All the marbles will be in there and we hope to do good."

Dionisio and Ang both made the Minimum Qualifying Score (MQS) as determined by the world shooting association and would need to finish no lower than sixth in Kuwait to assure a stint in China.

But with a number of the participants in Kuwait already in the Olympic draw, Dionisio said that landing eighth would most likely earn him and Ang, the bronze medalist in the individual trap event in Manila in 2005, a ticket to the Beijing Games.

Dionisio has also lost hope on practical shooting being made an official Olympic sport in the future.

"So many people have tried doing that," he said. "And nothing has happened."

Jethro, who said that he spends something like P40,000 a month in training if Philippine Sports Commission aid is not available, has not fired a pistol competitively since 1999.

"But with practice, I can regain my old form—and it won't take me that long to recover," he said. "If only it (practical shooting) was an Olympic sport, and if it had happened (in the last decade), then we would have won our first gold medal already."

Trap shooters fall short, take silver

From page A31

dest but least seasoned shooter in the trap team, having taken up the sport only in 2000 while campaigning in Manila in 2005 as an archer.

"We just didn't deliver (in the most crucial times)," added Carag, an ex-military man who had an up-and-down stint highlighted by rounds in the extremes – as he shot down 24 out of a possible 25 birds in the first round and nailing just 15 in the second.

"It was still a good finish for us," Dionisio, whose wife gave birth to twin girls a couple of weeks before coming over, told the Inquirer. "(A) silver is not bad. We gave it our all. We just did not have the breaks we needed (late in the event)."

The 43-year-old Concepcion held his ground in the finals, regaining third place after being dislodged by home bet Thananchai Thanapat going into their final three shots.

Concepcion, a meter technician for Meralco back home, salvaged his medal by shooting 9.7 and 10.5 in his final two shots, finishing just sixth-tenths of a point out of the silver medal and failing to come up with his familiar golden refrain in the 1990s.

The Masambong, Quezon City native, whose four gold medals from 1989 to 1995 was always the first for the Philippines, has not won the gold since and felt he had a real chance of snapping the drought after winding up third in the classification with a 586 total.

Jonath Tien Weih Koh held on in first spot and won the second gold for Singapore, with compatriot Jun Hong Ong checking in second for the silver.

Meanwhile, Susan Aguado, a two-time champion who fared horribly on Tuesday, will try to redeem himself and improve on Concepcion's bronze finish by campaigning in the 10-meter air pistol for women on Thursday.

Make way for new RP golf star

BANGKOK, THAILAND—AFTER YEARS of playing behind the shadow of the great Juvic Pagunsan, Jay Bayron will be coming over as the new Philippine golf ace.

Rumors have been swirling the past few months that the 28-year-old Bayron, an ex-caddy from Apo in Davao, will be turning professional after this edition of the Games.

If ever, he would basically trace the same path which Pagunsan took, turning pro after winning the individual gold medal in Manila and anchoring the team to the gold medal at The Country Club in Laguna two years ago.

In the golf team with Bayron are ex-caddies Jonel Ababa, Ferdinand Aunzo and the super-steady Mark Fernando.

Ababa and Fernando are products of the National Caddies' Open program who will be playing for the Philippines only for the second time like Aunzo.

* * *

Susan Aguado, a winner of two gold medals in prior editions of the SEA Games, blamed her poor form on the recent SK elections back home.

Because of that political exercise, she wasn't able to file for a leave of absence from the police force to train.

Aguado, 46, is a Senior Police Officer 2 detailed at Camp Crame.

"My time was divided between training and work," Aguado, who failed to qualify in her first event Tuesday, said in Filipino. "But what can I do, I love them both and I don't like to make excuses."

She has been in the service for 22 years now and won gold medals in her pet 25-meter pistol event in the 1991 and 1997 editions. *Musong R. Castillo*

27th PBA Open tourney ongoing

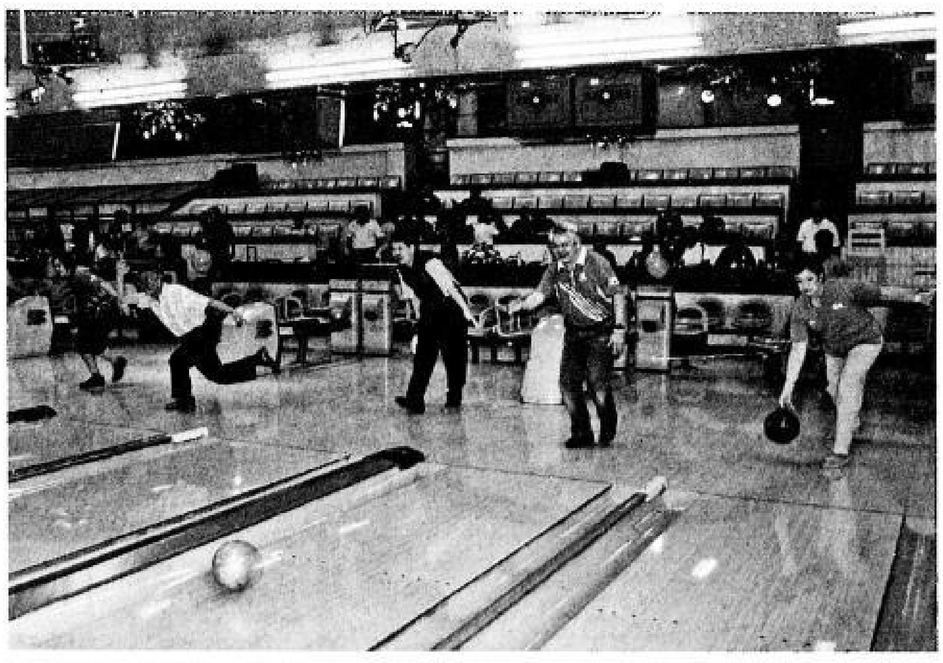
THE 2007 PASIG BOWLING ASSOCIATION (PBA) Open Championships is now ongoing at the Green Valley Country Club along C-5 Road in Pasig City.

More than 300 bowlers from all over the country, including members of the national team and national pool, have joined the event which is sanctioned by the Philippine Bowling Congress.

The PBA Open actually rolled off last Saturday and will end on Sunday, Dec. 2. Qualifying games are ongoing starting at 3 p.m.

The participants will vie for cash awards amounting to more than P500,000 in six divisions: Mixed Open masters (men and ladies), Graded Masters Men, Associate Master Men, Mixed Ladies (Graded and Associate), Senior Masters Men and Ladies.

This last major event in the PBC calendar this year is sponsored by Pepsi, Mini-Stop and the PBA members and officers.


PBA PRESIDENT Steve Robles (2nd from right) is joined by (from left) PBC officers Bong Coo, Steve Hontiveros and Jaime Dychauco, and Menchu Valencia, president of the Philippine Senior Bowlers, in the ceremonial roll-off of the PBA Open at the Green Valley Country Club.

PSA bowling starts today

SPORTSWRITERS FROM THE country's leading broadsheets and tabloids try their mettle at the lanes when the Philippine Sportswriters Association holds the first PSA Bowling Cup today at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal.

The event, coming on the heels of the highly successful PSA Golf Series, expects to draw some 30 sports scribes and guests from its longtime partner DZSR Sports Radio 918. It is being supported by Brickroad Gym and Aspen Spas in cooperation with the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

The bowling tourney also has Wendy's and Cabalen Restaurant as co-presenters, along with usual backers Informatics-Cainta, Uber Salon, Express-miles Travels and Tours, Accel, Brickroad Venture and King Fox Security Agency.

The tournament is also part of the road show for "My Olympic Dream," a project started by the PSA and Brickroad, which aims to raise P2 million to supplement the nutrition funds of the country's Olympians before they set out to compete in next year's Beijing Olympic Games.

The PSA and Brickroad are dangling a trip to Beijing for two for a chance to witness the Olympic Games as part of the prizes for "My Olympic Dream" ticket holders.

Kristine May Robles, general manager of Brickroad Gym and Aspen Spas, will welcome the sports scribes. She is also expected to brief the participants in the progress of "My Olympic Dream."

Nat'l junior pool Cebu tryouts start

PBA GREAT RAMON FERNANDEZ hosts the Cebu leg of the National Basketball Training Center (NBTC) from Dec. 15 to 16, kicking off a national program that the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas hopes will culminate into a stint in the 2010 Junior Olympics.

The NBTC, a program launched by the SBP to discover fresh young basketball talent, will be under the direct supervision of former PBA coach Eric Altamirano.

After Fernandez's Cebu tryouts at the Sacred Heart School, young cagers from the National Capital Region will gun for slots to what will become the national youth pool to be handled by Franz Pumaren on Dec. 22 and 23 at the Xavier Sports Center.

The program, a brainchild of SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan and executive director Patrick Gregorio, is open to boys and girls from 14-16 and 17-19 years of age.

For details and schedule inquiries, please call 6311195, 0919-4422443 or 0916-5170607 or e-mail info@nbtcpilipinas.com. or mon@nbtcpilipinas.com.

OVERCOMING BALDNESS

THINK-A-HEAD

No man likes being bald. He may try to ignore it, but deep inside, there's a nagging feeling that life has been unfair. Why me? Why have I gone bald when my friends haven't? Many men sadly accept looking older, being called "Baldie," feeling not so attractive to the opposite sex and putting up with the other handicaps baldness brings – both socially and career wise.

Other men refuse to accept baldness and look for a way out – this is when a wrong decision can lead to an even worse state of frustration and despair. Before you do anything about baldness, read the answers to these most asked questions.

Q. I DON'T LIKE BEING BALD – WHAT CAN I DO?

A. There are basically two ways to go. Some men opt for a surgical hair transplant. Others for the non-surgical alternative. When making the decision there's one essential rule: *THINK-A-HEAD!* - it's not only the immediate results that are so important, it's what your head is going to look like in a few years.

Q. OK, SO WHAT ABOUT SURGICAL TRANSPLANTS?

A. Some say transplants have come a long way since the early days, others say they haven't come far enough. Basically, the surgical process involves taking donor hair from elsewhere on the recipient's head and transplanting it to the balding areas.

Q. DOES TRANSPLANTED HAIR CONTINUE TO GROW?

A. If the surgery has been performed well, the transplanted hair will continue to grow, as it did before it was moved.

Q. CAN ANY BALD MAN HAVE A TRANSPLANT?

A. It's not really possible for a man with advanced baldness because he simply would not have sufficient donor hair to cover his large bald area. Transplants do not increase the number of hairs on a man's head, it's just a case of redistributing them. Transplants are excellent for filling in smaller areas or adding extra hair to thinning parts where there is not expected to be further hairloss.

Q. ARE THERE ANY PROBLEMS WITH TRANSPLANTS?

A. For men whose baldness will not advance further, there seems little downside to having a transplant.

Q. BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF I CONTINUE TO GO BALD?

A. For those whose hairloss continues to advance, there can be significant problems. While the transplanted hair will carry on growing, his other hair becomes thin in contrast as he progressively goes bald. He can have further transplants, but it's likely donor hair will become insufficient as the donor areas do not re-grow hair. The result might be patches of thicker-growing hair among thinning and sparser hair – and this won't take long to happen. The ensuing odd appearance of the man's head can cause him further embarrassment and stress. Speed of hairloss varies, but for most it takes just a few short years from thinning to full-blown baldness.

If a man suffers from Male Pattern Baldness, which usually strikes when he's in his early twenties or thirties, his hairloss will likely continue until he's bald. This is where the catch-phrase *THINK-A-HEAD!* comes into play. Think what your head will look like in a few years after surgical transplanting – will you want to go out in public?

Q. I DON'T WANT THAT RISK, SO WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

A. The non-surgical alternative is TCR or Transdermal Cosmetic Reconstruction. It's a super-fine synthetic skin with hair seen to be actually growing from it, which is then bonded to your scalp.

Q. IS TCR FOR ANYONE, NO MATTER HOW BALD HE MIGHT BE?

A. Yes, this advanced system is ideal for any state of hairloss and baldness, even for those with only a small amount of hair at the back and sides – the sort of baldness which is really not suitable for a transplant.

Q. HOW REAL IS TCR, WILL IT LOOK GENUINE?

A. TCR is real, natural hair, which looks and feels as if it's growing from your scalp. TCR cannot be distinguished from your own hair, even by touching. You are not "wearing" it, it's part of you.

Q. DOES TCR REQUIRE SPECIAL CARE?

A. To keep TCR perfect, you need only visits to the stylist every two or three weeks, just as any man does for the cutting and styling of his hair. As you get older, your TCR can be subtly aged and grayed, just as your full head of hair would have looked had you not lost any.

Q. IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE – WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?

A. There are no problems. You can do anything with TCR, it's your new full head of hair. It feels totally natural on your head – you're not aware of it. The only times you'll be reminded that you're no longer bald is when you look in the mirror and how others react to you – remember, you're going to look years younger!

Q. IS TCR AVAILABLE IN MANILA?

A. Yes, it's available in Manila at Svenson, the hair replacement specialists.

Q. IS TCR SUITABLE FOR ME?

A. To find out if your scalp condition and skin type are suitable for the TCR procedure, book a no-cost TCR fact-finding consultation by calling 892-4247.

Patafa nod for Yakult 10-miler

THE PHILIPPINE AMATEUR TRACK AND Field Association (Patafa), the national governing body for walk and run events in the country, has given its sanction for the holding of the 19th Annual Yakult 10-miler on Dec. 9.

Patafa president Go Teng Kok yesterday said his association will make official the race, which is set to start and finish at the Vicente Sotto St. inside the Cultural Center Complex grounds in Pasay City.

At stake is P7,000 for the overall champion and the top female finisher of the 16K centerpiece event.

All finishers will receive the Yakult finisher's singlets. A commerative trophy also await the group with the biggest delegation.

Registration is ongoing at the Vasquez Madrigal Bldg., 51 Annapolis St., in Greenhills, San Juan. For further inquiries, call 7279987 during office hours.

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Aboitiz group bags Ambuklao-Binga plants

Bids $325M for power facilities package

By Abigail L. Ho

SN ABOITIZ POWER HYDRO INC. (SNAP HYDRO), A PARTNERship between Manila-Oslo Renewable Enterprise Inc. (MORE) and SN Power Holding Singapore Pte Ltd., yesterday won the auction for the 175-megawatt (MW) Ambuklao-Binga hydropower facility with a bid of $325 million.

The partnership edged out Calaca Power Partners Co. Ltd., which posted a bid of $305.5 million. The third prequalified bidder for the plant package, First Gen Corp. of the Lopez group, backed out of the race.

Both entities that submitted final technical, legal and financial bids were able to meet the government-set floor price for the plant package, which the state-owned Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. did not disclose.

In an interview following the declaration of the highest bid, PSALM president Jose Ibazeta said the sale of the Ambuklao-Binga plant package brought the privatization level of the National Power Corp.'s Luzon and Visayas capacities to 42.7 percent, less than 8 percentage points shy of PSALM's 50-percent privatization target for this year.

The 70-percent privatization level, one of the preconditions for the implementation of retail competition and open access, should be reached by the first half of 2008.

"If we sell (the 192.5-MW Palinpinon geothermal facility and 146.5-MW Panay diesel-fired power plant package), then we'll hit the 50-percent mark. We've so far sold 12 plants, 10 of which are in Luzon and Visayas. Total proceeds so far are at $2.7 billion, or an average of $1.46 million per megawatt. Things are going very,

ABOITIZ/B11

Cuisia named 'Management Man of the Year' for 2007

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines yesterday named Jose L. Cuisia Jr., president and CEO of Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co. Inc., as "Management Man of the Year 2007."

In a statement, MAP said the award was bestowed on individuals in the business community or government for "attaining unquestioned distinction in the practice of management and for contributing to the country's progress."

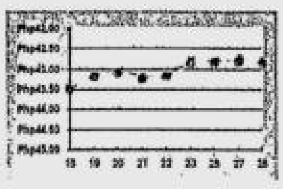
The criteria for the award included integrity, leadership and management qualities; contribution to nation building and val-

CUISIA/B6

CUISIA

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

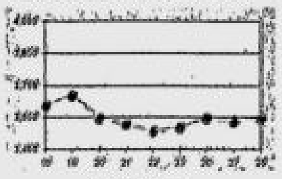


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P42.86 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 28, 2007

STOCK MARKET



Shares close higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.4 PERcent higher yesterday as Wall Street provided some support amid underlying concerns over the global credit crisis and the health of the US economy, dealers said.

The market trimmed gains in the final hour of trade, reflecting caution ahead of the release here of gross domestic product growth data today.

The composite index added 12.81 points to 3,537.00, off a high of 3,572.03.

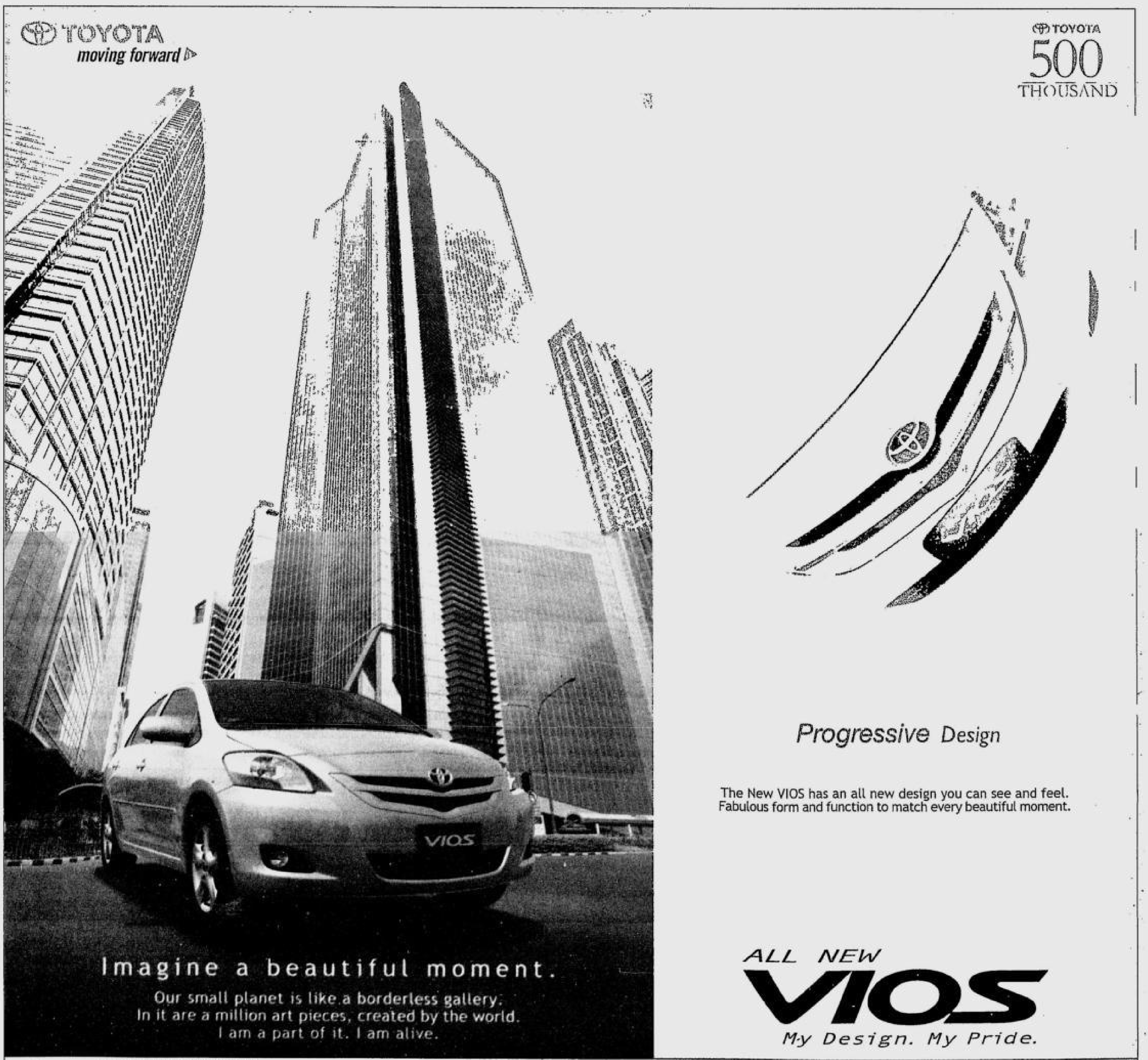
There were 64 advancers and 48 decliners, while 56 stocks were flat.

A total of 3.8 billion shares worth P3.9 billion changed hands.

Investors cheered the rebound on Wall Street on Tuesday after Citigroup, the largest US bank, announced a $7.5-billion cash injection from the Abu Dhabi government amid the fallout from the ongoing credit crisis.

"The bleak outlook for the US economy still persists. There's a worsening credit crisis and oil is near $100 a barrel," said Ron Rodrigo of DBP Daiwa Securities.

AFP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Steniel files for debt relief

Packaging firm, subsidiaries seek court protection

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

CARTON BOX MAKER STENIEL Manufacturing Corp. (Steniel) and four of its subsidiaries have filed separate petitions for rehabilitation with the local courts in a bid to keep their assets.

Steniel informed the Philippine Stock Exchange that it filed its petition with the Imus court last Nov. 26 along with subsidiary Steniel Land Corp. Steniel Cavite Packaging Corp. filed its own petition last Nov. 16.

Subsidiary Metro Paper and Packaging Products Inc., on the other hand, filed its petition last Nov. 27 before a regional trial court in Cagayan de Oro while Treasure Packaging Corp. went to the trial court in Cebu last Nov. 26.

Steniel initially filed last Nov. 16 a consolidated rehabilitation petition with the Imus trial court.

Steniel chief finance officer Paul Richard Camangian said, however, that Steniel had to withdraw the single petition and file separate ones with different courts after the Cavite court said it did not have jurisdiction over some subsidiaries.

Steniel produces corrugated boards used for finished boxes through its facilities in Cavite, Cebu and Davao. The finished products are used for packaging consumer goods, fresh fruits, canned sardines, furniture and electronic goods.

Steniel's other subsidiaries—Steniel Mindanao Packaging Corp., Metroplas Packaging Products Corp. and Steniel Carton Systems Corp.—have not yet filed any petition for rehabilitation.

Officials could not immediately comment on whether there are plans by these subsidiaries to file their own petitions for debt relief.

The Steniel group asked the courts to approve its rehabilitation plan so it could conserve its assets and protect subsidiaries from tax claims by the local governments, Steniel chair Perry Pe earlier told the INQUIRER.

Steniel earlier proposed the sale of certain idle assets of non-operating subsidiaries, proceeds of which would be used to reduce debts.

Banks declared Steniel in default of debt payments on May 24, 2006, after it failed to meet quarterly principal and interest debt payments starting March 2004.

The Steniel group's debt stands at nearly P1 billion—P691 million of which is principal debt and about P300 million in unpaid interest.

Full tanker

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

BY APRIL NEXT YEAR, BASED ON the rules of the Maritime Industry Association (Marina), this country must use double hull tankers. And nothing else!

In other words, in transporting oil and gas products, we have to phase out all those environment hazards: the single hull tankers.

Bear in mind the disaster called MT Solar I, which sank off the coast of Guimaras in August last year, which this administration in turn declared a "national calamity."

A similar calamity is what the new Marina rule precisely wants to prevent. The bottom and the side of double hull tankers have two complete watertight layers. In effect, the outer layer is the usual hull. It is the second layer that serves as back-up, a sort of another barrier to seawater if the outer hull fails.

Now, that April 2008 deadline of Marina is less than six months from today.

Do I have bad news! It seems tanker operators are still dragging their feet.

To think, in reaction to the MT Solar I disaster, the Lola at the Palace even ordered, well, "immediate" measures to upgrade our maritime transport.

Her order now appears to have no impact at all. From what I heard, a number of tanker operators are trying to delay the Marina double-hull rule.

Their main alibi is funding. Conversion of 5,000 ton-single hull tankers to double hull costs $12 to $15 million. A brand new double hull tanker fetches about $35 million.

Whaaat? For those few rich guys to make a lot more money, the rest of us will just have to take the risk? Is that it?

* * *

MARINA already spelled out its double-hull rule in Memorandum Circular 2007-001, even threatening violators with stiff fines and suspensions.

Under the rule, Marina will cancel the licenses of tanker violators and even remove their vessels from the Philippine registry.

The rule, in turn, is part of this country's commitment under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution 73/78 (MARPOL 73/78), mandating the phaseout of single hull vessels by 2008 for fuel oil tankers and by 2010 for refined petroleum tankers.

And so, even the major oil companies here (Petron, Shell and Caltex) are requiring their tanker contractors to use only double hull vessels by 2010.

The point is, the tanker operators really have no choice. They either put up or shut up. There is no in-between.

* * *

ACTUALLY, tankers almost corner the distribution business of the oil companies, serving their oil refineries and depots. Really, it's not those traffic infesting trucks with warning on the sides saying "inflammable."

Anyway, about 75 percent of the transport needs of the major oil companies goes to tankers.

The reason is quite obvious: We are an archipelago, and delivery of fuel must necessarily involve transport through deep open seas.

Yet we have only 20 companies in oil tanker business, with only a handful dominating the scene. The entire sector has more than 50 tankers and barges, capable of carrying about more than a billion liters of fuel at any one time.

And the companies are bound to expand. You see, most of the country's means of transportation and power generation run on oil-based fuel.

Official data (Department of Energy) also show that about 70 percent of the country's economic activities are dependent on petroleum-based products.

Demand for petroleum products is expected to grow at an average rate of 3.36 percent a year in the next six years.

We badly need the Marina rule to be implemented.

***

RA 8240 (otherwise known as "sin tax" law), governing the excise taxation on cigarettes, was passed in 1997.

That was way, way before the British American Tobacco, or BAT, launched its controversial Pall Mall brand of cigarettes in this country.

The law specified a four-tier system for excise tax covering 23 cigarette brands existing at that time.

Only Congress thus can change the tax rates for those "protected" brands.

Enter Jeremy Flint, general manager of BAT Philippines, which is a subsidiary of the London-based British American Tobacco.

In a recent episode of a talk show on ANC (ABS-CBN news and public affairs cable channel), Flint attacked the law as unfair.

But unfair to whom? Well, to Flint, the law seemed to favor those existing brands over the newcomer Pall Mall.

He thus suggests that the Philippines should open up its cigarette market to companies like BAT. You know—something similar to "open season" for cigarettes.

To justify his position, Flint said that such an open season policy can encourage companies like BAT to invest in the Philippines.

Do we take it then that as of today, this very minute, BAT still has no factory here? Did we get Flint right that, despite all the trouble that his company created in this country, BAT just does not want to put its money where its mouth is?

It's just that BAT promises to invest here, and for BAT to deliver on such a promise, the Philippine government will have to change its excise tax system for cigarettes, which is only such a major measure in Congress that nobody wants to touch the issue.

You mean, boss, this country must go through all that trouble so that BAT can get tax advantage for its Pall Mall brand? Hmmm!

Down here in my barangay, the guys precisely believe that RA 8240 was designed to make it difficult—extremely difficult—for more foreign cigarette companies to enter the Philippine market to kill us with lung cancer.

For since when did cigarette manufacturing ever become a priority investment area in this country?

We call the law on cigarette taxation as SIN tax law for a reason. And that is, cigarette is not really a product beneficial to the people. Cigarette manufacturers themselves admit that their product causes disease.

Smoking is a vice. It is not as if BAT is investing in food.

And BAT says that we must give it special favors? Wow!

GMA income up 22% to ₱2.06B as of Oct.

TELEVISION GIANT GMA NETWORK INC. said its net income surged 22 percent to P2.06 billion in the first 10 months of the year from P1.69 billion in the same period last year.

In its statement sent to the Philippine Stock Exchange, GMA Network said revenues from its nationwide television channel, Channel 7, during the 10-month period grew 7 percent to P8.95 billion.

Likewise, 10-month revenues of its free additional channel, Quality TV (Qtv) grew 63 percent. GMA Network's international operations also rose 48 percent during the January to October period.

Return on equity was at par with last year's 30 percent.

GMA Network also said it was closing in on the nationwide ratings lead of its rival, ABS-CBN.

Citing a National Urban Television Audience Measurement (NUTAM) survey by research outfit AGB Nielsen, GMA Network said it trailed ABS-CBN by only 1.3 percent in "people ratings"—or based on the number of people watching television programs—in October, up from its 2.3 percent deficit in August. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

CURRENCIES

November 28, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.674627	1.000000	42.8740
Japan	Yen	0.006192	0.009179	0.3935
United Kingdom	Pound	1.395804	2.069000	88.7063
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.086688	0.128498	5.5092
Switzerland	Franc	0.610412	0.904814	38.7930
Canada	Dollar	0.677133	1.003714	43.0332
Singapore	Dollar	0.468004	0.693722	29.7426
Australia	Dollar	0.589967	0.874508	37.4937
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.801408	2.670227	114.4833
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.181840	0.269542	11.5563
Brunei	Dollar	0.466386	0.691324	29.6398
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000072	0.000106	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.021692	0.032154	1.3786
UAE	Dirham	0.183812	0.272465	11.6817
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.482300	63.5521
Korea	Won	0.000727	0.001077	0.0462
China	Yuan**	0.091363	0.135428	5.8063
Denmark	Kroner	0.134158	0.198863	8.5261
India	Rupee	0.017002	0.025202	1.0805
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.199889	0.296296	12.7034
New Zealand	Dollar	0.511585	0.758323	32.5123
Sweden	Kroner	0.107409	0.159213	6.8261
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.020875	0.030943	1.3267

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 27, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 27, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 28, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	53.5	54.5	53.5	54	1,361,700
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	61.5	63	61.5	62.5	519,600
748	544	China Banking Corp.	665	665	665	665	1,740
23.5	14	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	240,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	55.5	56	54	54.5	1,025,700
65.5	39	Philippine National Bank	42.5	43	42	43	970,500
68	46	Philippine Savings Bank	60	60.5	60	60.5	1,500
39.57	20	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24	24	23.5	23.75	91,400
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	68	68	67.5	67.5	109,000
66	42	Union Bank of the Philippines	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	90,300
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.9	1.94	1,151,000
16.25	4.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	11	11.25	11	11	1,082,700
8.8	4.7	Filipino Fund Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	6,000
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	60,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	200
5.9	4.8	I-Remit Inc.	5	5.1	5	5	563,000
1,970.00	1,580.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,700.00	1,705.00	1,700.00	1,705.00	2,030
5	2.7	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3	3.05	3	3	2,012,000
1,390.00	260	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	61,940
2,500.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,220.00	2,220.00	2,220.00	2,220.00	10
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	265,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	4.75	4.8	4.75	4.8	4,591,000
0.57	0.22	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.235	0.3	0.235	0.29	920,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	57.5	59	57	57	1,892,500
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	63	66	63	65.5	1,681,600
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.75	3,915,200
105.45	27.73	Manila Electric Co.	70	71.5	70	71	1,862,900
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7	7	6.9	6.9	10,370,000
7.4	3.95	Petron Corp.	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.9	5,476,000
14.75	6.4	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	5,000
2.04	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.3	1.36	1.28	1.28	2,363,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.4	Alaska Milk Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.9	63,000
2.32	1.48	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.5	1.56	1.5	1.54	519,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	48.5	48.5	47.5	48	125,000
9.1	5.7	Pancake House Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	40,000
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.7	760,000
3.3	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.7	239,000
40	40	San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc "A"	40	40	40	40	100
80	42.5	San Miguel Corp. "A"	50	50	46.5	47	185,400
88	43	San Miguel Corp. "B"	48	49.5	47	47.5	3,941,000
6.5	3	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5	5	5	5	20,000
20.75	13.5	Universal Robina Corp.	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.25	6,246,600
0.55	0.24	Vitarich Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.29	0.31	350,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.65	EEI Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	315,000
21.5	6	Federal Resources Invest Group Inc.	9.9	10	9.9	10	16,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8	8	7.8	7.8	604,000
2	0.81	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	0.98	1	0.96	1	7,780,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.5	9.5	839,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.15	4.15	898,000
2.4	1.31	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	8,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	50,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
7.4	5.1	Panasonic Manufacturing Phils. Corp.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	3,000
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	5,600,000
9	6.7	Splash Corp.	7.3	7.3	6.8	7.1	672,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
39	18.75	ABS-CBN Holdings, Corp. - PDR	34	34.5	33.5	33.5	93,600
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	177,000
0.185	0.0525	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.115	0.12	61,110,000
1.28	0.29	APC Group Inc.	0.62	0.65	0.6	0.61	3,480,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.6	731,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.6	2.9	2.6	2.9	149,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	17,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000
9.7	5.8	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.8	1,389,000
0.021	0.0095	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	41,900,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	7,556,000
1.38	0.59	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc	0.73	0.82	0.73	0.73	470,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.46	2.48	2.44	2.46	1,175,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	565	570	545	550	795,940
5.8	1.64	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.8	3.85	3.75	3.75	1,431,000
12	5	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	568,500
8	3.15	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	370,000
14.5	8.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	10	10	10	10	222,000
10.5	1.42	Lodestar Investment Hldgs Corp.	10.5	10.5	9.5	10.25	167,000
0.8	0.23	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	250,000
0.95	0.28	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.49	0.45	0.49	110,000
11.5	1.5	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.6	6.8	6.4	6.5	4,025,000
8.5	3	PAL Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	57,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.23	200,500,000
0.75	0.19	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.47	0.52	0.47	0.49	10,670,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	355	355	345	347.5	60,860
0.73	0.14	Sinophil Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	2,020,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.31	0.34	0.31	0.32	28,840,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	20,000
		PROPERTY					
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.4	7.1	7.4	104,000
1.06	0.4	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	180,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.5	22,011,100
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,220,000
3.83	2	City and Land Developers Inc.	2	2	2	2	10,000
2.7	1.25	Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	12,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.36	0.4	0.36	0.37	10,170,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.73	12,280,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	25,000
0.47	0.0575	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.24	12,020,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1	1.02	0.99	1.02	11,950,000
2.44	1.28	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.52	1.54	1.5	1.52	16,976,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	60,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.48	410,000
4.6	1.86	Megaworld Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.75	3.8	75,631,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.9	3.9	261,000
5.2	2.2	Metro Pacific Invest Corp. - Warrants	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.75	358,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.34	0.36	0.33	0.33	7,960,000
0.86	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.43	530,000
9.2	1.32	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	4.75	4.8	4.75	4.8	68,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	2,951,400
5.9	1.93	SM Development Corp.	4	4	4	4	149,000
13.5	7.6	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.5	11	11.25	3,616,500
3.25	1.5	Shang Properties Inc	2.2	2.32	2.2	2.3	906,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	2.06	2.06	1.96	1.96	685,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.54	500,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.26	4,830,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.9	15,284,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34	34	34	34	216,100
12	7.6	GMA Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	1,847,000
11.75	7.5	GMA Network Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	97,000
1.03	0.81	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	40,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1,269,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,500.00	1,505.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	51,460
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,030.00	3,035.00	3,000.00	3,015.00	145,490
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7	7.1	7	7.1	622,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	10,000
15.5	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	14	14	13.25	13.5	141,500
11.5	2.5	IPVG Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.4	614,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.039	0.039	0.038	0.039	7,200,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	15	15	15	15	5,000
5	1.62	Information Capital Tech. Ventures Inc.	3	3.2	2.8	3.2	36,000
2.9	1.1	Ionics Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	64,000
0.32	0.05	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.17	650,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	201,000
0.0725	0.03	Philweb Corp.	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	45,700,000
5.8	1.64	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.55	2.55	873,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.3	800,000
42.5	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	42	42.5	41.5	42	1,454,400
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	18,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	5	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	9	10	9	10	139,000
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.4	2.4	2	2.2	916,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	30,000
1.16	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.99	0.99	3,440,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.83	0.85	0.83	0.85	4,090,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	10,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2.04	Macroasia Corp.	4.75	4.75	4.7	4.7	44,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11	11.25	11	11.25	131,700
30	6.4	Paxys Inc.	7	7.2	6.9	6.9	2,075,000
472.5	390	eTelecare Global Solutions Inc.	460	460	445	445	9,020
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.01	106,000,000
7.2	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.9	7.2	6.7	6.7	4,629,000
7.4	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	7.2	7.4	7	7	4,080,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	13	13.25	12.75	12.75	1,496,300
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.25	12.5	12	12	15,400
12.75	1.96	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	9.6	9.6	9.4	9.4	163,000
3.1	0.6	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	1.92	1.96	1.84	1.86	44,996,000
0.56	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.53	0.54	0.51	0.52	221,270,000
0.61	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.54	0.58	0.53	0.55	177,380,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.028	436,500,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.032	202,100,000
30	3.6	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	20.5	20.75	19.75	20	1,421,300
0.021	0.0088	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	1,484,100,000
0.015	0.007	Omico Corp. - Warrants	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.0095	212,000,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.8	2,938,000
49	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	44	45.5	44	45.5	371,200
1.36	0.55	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.68	0.68	1,640,000
1.8	0.85	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	2,003,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	360,000
0.029	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.023	49,800,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.026	87,400,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10.25	10	10	345,000
0.032	0.0095	The Philodrill Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.028	29,200,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	858.79 UP	6.95	9,615,620	310,431,625.00
Industrial	4,111.03 UP	51.70	62,521,300	870,051,300.00
Holding Firms	1,993.80 DOWN	5.54	390,244,300	639,069,045.00
Property	1,578.45 DOWN	4.39	200,800,000	866,109,450.00
Service	1,806.84 UP	4.08	71,056,670	635,747,795.00
Mining & Oil	8,454.72 UP	124.06	2,858,208,200	508,592,315.00
All Shares Index	2,157.37 UP	9.10		
PSEi	3,537.00 UP	12.81		
	GRAND TOTALS		3,592,446,090	3,830,001,530.00

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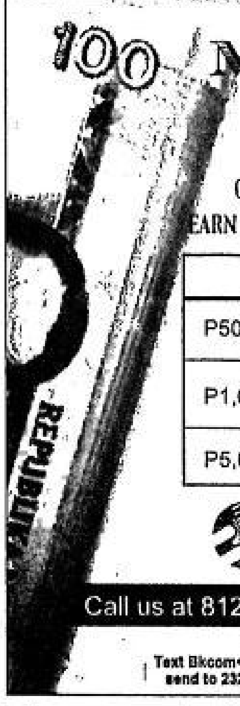
SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE



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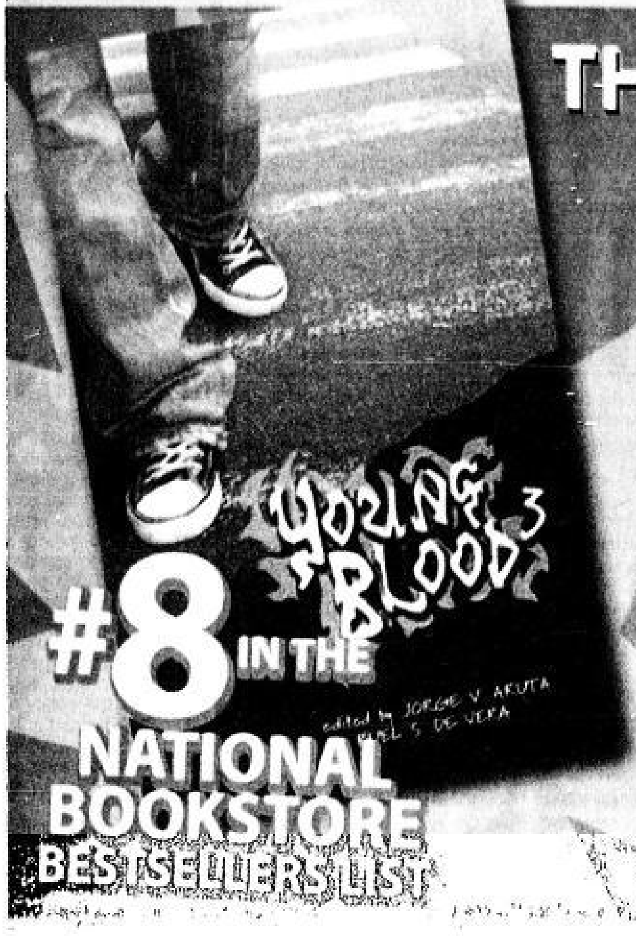

#8 IN THE NATIONAL BOOKSTORE BESTSELLERS LIST

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
No. 2007-021-g

RE-BIDDING FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF PHOTOCOPYING SERVICE FOR TWO (2) YEARS

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) 2006 and continuing appropriation of 2007, intends to apply the sum of **PhP 7,275,297.96 or 75 centavos per copy** as the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Photocopying Service for Two (2) Years. The maximum amount of copies estimated to be produced by PhilHealth is **9,700,392 copies for a period of two (2) years.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PhilHealth now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the said procurement with the following specifications:

- The descriptions of the photocopiers are based on the speed capacity of the machine and not on the number or quantity of copies it may produce. The bidder may propose a photocopier with a higher speed capacity but it will not be an additional point on the bidder's proposal upon bid evaluation.

Quantity	Type	Description
11 units	High-end Digital Equipment	A machine that is capable of handling monthly volume of 50,001 copies and above and with a **copy speed of 55 copies per minute (cpm) or higher**
16 units	Medium-end Digital Equipment	A machine that is capable of handling monthly volume of 20,001 to 50,000 copies and with a **copy speed of 40 cpm or higher**
26 units	Low-end Digital Equipment	A machine that is capable of handling a monthly volume of 20,000 copies and with a **copy speed of 30 cpm or higher**

- All units should be digital with scan once, print many features.
- All units should be capable of handling ordinary A4 to A3 size plain paper.
- All units should have a power supply requirement of 220 volts.
- All units should have a manual/digital metering feature.
- All units should have an enlarger/reducer feature.
- Medium-end and High-end units should have an automatic document feeder and back-to back feature with sorter/finisher.
- Low-end units should have an automatic document feeder and a back-to-back feature.
- All units should have security locks and password operation.

Other goods and services requirements that the winning bidder shall provide PhilHealth, **free of charge:**

- Upgrading of machines, when necessary;
- Maintenance and repair services, inclusive of spare parts;
- Consumables like toner, developer, drum, inclusive of the necessary replacement thereof to ensure the normal operation of the machine;
- Back-up unit to be located in the Central Office and NCR-Group Branch Offices of PhilHealth, in the event that any of the installed machine/s in the said location breaks down;
- Replacement of defective units within 24 hours in case any unit becomes unserviceable;
- One (1) stand-by technician to attend to service call within the Central Office and NCR-Group Branch Offices of PhilHealth. (Free in-house technician);
- Additional units needed under the same terms and conditions as stipulated in the contract, including cost per copy;
- No guarantee deposit will be required by the supplier upon delivery and installation of machines;
- All costs for the installation and delivery of the machine shall be on account of the winning bidder;
- No minimum copy volume;
- Two percent (2%) spoilage to be deducted from the gross copies;
- Operator's training to the end-users; and
- The Maximum Usage Quantity (MUQ) shall be set by the specific end-user upon deployment of the corresponding unit with the following terms and conditions:

a. That based on the maximum total number of copies of 9,700,392 which would be photocopied for the period of two (2) years, the End-user shall provide the winning bidder the aggregate number of copies that would be photocopied by each department for the period of two (2) years;
b. That upon deployment of photocopying machines to each department, the winning bidder shall input in each machine the maximum number of copies which a certain department would photocopy for the period of two (2) years;
c. That should the maximum number of copies for the period of two (2) years of a certain department has already been consumed on or before the end of the two (2) year contract, the photocopying machine shall automatically shutdown; and
d. That PhilHealth will not pay any excess in the agreed contract price.

All Goods, Delivery Receipts/Invoices shall be delivered to the PhilHealth Central Office, Supply Section, Rm. 1503, 15th floor, Citystate Centre, Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City, provided that the photocopying machines shall be respectively deployed by the winning bidder at any part of the office premises of PhilHealth as determined by PhilHealth and at the expense of the winning bidder.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/Sole Proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws of regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino Citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to the technical and financial requirements. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who would be determined as such after the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (SBAC)** Office of PhilHealth, Room 1003 10th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City, and inspect the Bidding Documents from **8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents should be purchased by interested Bidders from **November 28 to December 4, 2007** at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **PhP 5,000.00** cash. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally.

PhilHealth will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **December 5, 2007** at **10:30 a.m.** at the **SBAC Conference Room** (Rm. 1002), PhilHealth Central Office, 10th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the **SBAC Conference Room** on or before **December 19, 2007, 10:30 a.m.** The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at the **SBAC Conference Room.** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on December 19, 2007, 10:30 a.m. at the SBAC Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

CY 2005 to CY 2006 is the relevant period for contracts which will be required by PhilHealth to be submitted.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office
MR. JOSEPH O. VERGARA
Rm. 1003, 10th Floor Citystate Centre
709 Shaw Blvd, Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 637-9999 local 1830
e-mail add: osbac@philhealth.gov.ph
www.philhealth.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ATTY. VALENTIN C. GUANIO
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services

(PDI - November 29, 2007)

Draka

Draka Cableteq | Transport
Draka Philippines Inc.

Draka Transport is a division of Draka Cableteq relating to the 'people moving industries' of Automotive and Aviation. Seven operating companies in Europe, Middle America and Asia employ approximately 1,200 people. Its global structure fits the worldwide organization of the transport vehicle manufacturing industry perfectly that combines the strength of our companies in Germany, France, Mexico, Philippines, Spain, China and the Czech Republic.

Draka Philippines, Inc., located at Mactan Ecozone II in Lapu-lapu City, Cebu is currently in need of a competent, highly skilled individual to fill up a key position in the organization who is responsible for the Finance and Accounting function of the Company's operation:

FINANCE CONTROLLER

- Must possess good business sense, professional intuition & integrity to provide appropriate advice/support to the Management Team
- Must be a qualified accountant through either a degree from a recognized university or a professional qualification, CPA license is a must
- Capable to prepare & oversee the annual budget process & monthly financial forecasts
- Able to review and analyse the business performance & operations & budgetary controls and preparation of management reports
- Capable to provide financial and business analysis on business development (such as risks assessment & management, etc.)
- Able to review, recommend, implement and monitor proper internal control systems within the organisation
- At least 10 years experience in a similar position (including 5 years relevant experience in a Manufacturing environment)
- Has the ability to liaise with the external auditors, bankers, lawyers & tax authorities, etc.
- Well-versed in the local Philippine government, corporate and taxation reporting
- Strong leadership and interpersonal skills - ability to communicate at all levels
- A team player as well as a team builder, ability to mentor and coach
- Knowledge of SAP is preferred

Competitive salary package and fringe benefits await qualified candidate

Applicants should send their comprehensive resume with application letter and picture addressed to The MANAGING DIRECTOR (Code: DPI – FC) at this address:

DRAKA PHILS. INC.
Mactan Ecozone II
Basak, Lapu-lapu City, Cebu

All applications shall be treated with utmost confidentiality and we only respond to qualified candidates.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development - Bicol
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
Telephone Nos. (064) 473-89-36
E-mail Address: bac_bicolmed@yahoo.com.ph
Fax No. (064) 473-89-36
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

1. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER**, through **General Appropriations Act** intends to apply specified sum of **PESOS FIVE MILLION ONLY (PhP 5,000,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract to payment under the contract for the **PROCUREMENT OF JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR C/Y 2008 (RE-BID) (IAEB No. 2007-27).**

Sale of Bid Documents	November 29 to December 6, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	December 6, 2007 - 9:00 a.m. BMC Library
Submission of Bids	December 18, 2007 - 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. BMC Library
Opening of Bids	December 18, 2007 - 9:00 a.m. BMC Library
Price of Bid Documents	TWO THOUSAND PESOS (PhP2,000.00)

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

2. Where there has been failure of competitive bidding conducted last 12 November 2007, the **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. The contract for Janitorial Services will be effective beginning January 1, 2008 until December 31, 2008.

The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, except weekends and Holidays.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents for each project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as stated above. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. The bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

1.	Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	(1% of ABC)
2.	Bank Guarantee	(1.5% of ABC)
3.	GSIS Surety Bond	(2.5% of ABC)

Late bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative/s who choose to attend at the address below.

8. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address:
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-8936
E-mail Address: **bac_bicolmed@yahoo.com.ph**
Fax No. (054) 473-8936
Website: **http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm**

Contact Person:
JENSY S. ONG, MD, FPOA
BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **JENSY S. ONG, MD, FPOA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 29, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

EDNA A. AZOTE,
Petitioner,
– versus – SSC Case No. 3-17730-07
ROSEMARIE AZOTE,
Respondent,
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Intervenor.
x - x

SUMMONS

MS. ROSEMARIE AZOTE
GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS (Makati) Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Rufino Street (formerly Herrera Street), Makati City, your Answer to the Petition filed by Edna A. Azote, for entitlement to benefits accruing from the death of SSS member Edgardo C. Azote.

You are further required to serve a copy of your Answer upon the petitioner, through her counsel, Atty. Josue G. Engaño at M103, 2nd Flr., Karen Bldg., 223 Gen. Luis St., Novaliches, Quezon City, and upon the SSS through counsel, Atty. Henry L. Tendido at SSS Makati City Branch Office, 355 ECC Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat, Makati City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or *motu-propio*, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence *ex-parte* and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED

Makati City, Philippines, October 15, 2007.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI – November 29, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION
OF
AFX-ASIA PTE LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the Directors of **AFX-ASIA PTE LIMITED** with Philippine registered office address at 5th Floor Kings Court II, Pasong Tamo cor. dela Rosa Street, Makati City resolved to dissolve and wind up its corporate affairs in accordance with law.

All persons having claims against said corporation are requested to present the same at the above-mentioned address or at the resident agent's address at 5th Floor Don Jacinto Building dela Rosa Cor. Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

This announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the legal dissolution of the aforesaid corporation.

(Sgd.) **WILLIE B. SANTIAGO**
Resident Agent

(PDI - Nov. 29, Dec. 6 & 13, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
Region X
PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE
Gov. Arsenio A. Quibranza Government Center
Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Lanao Del Norte is hereby inviting bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of various Medicines, Medical Supplies and Fluids of various government hospitals of this Province.

Approved Budget Cost:

A.	Medical Supplies	P 2,184,574.43
B.	Medicines	1,439,116.85
C.	Fluids	1,104,995.02

Approved Budget Cost

PARTICULAR	DATE
Issuance of eligibility requirements	November 29, 2007
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility requirements	December 07, 2007
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of non-refundable Fee of: A. P 2,500.00 B. P 2,500.00 C. P 2,500.00	December 13, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	December 17, 2007
Submission and Opening of Bids	January 3, 2008

For any inquiry, please call BAC Secretariat, Telephone No. 063-341-5623.

This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulation of Republic Act. No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

The Province of Lanao Del Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and waive any informality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the Provincial Government of Lanao Del Norte. The Provincial Government of Lanao Del Norte neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidder on the preparation of their respective bids nor does the Provincial Government of Lanao Del Norte guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MILDRED J. HINGCO**
BAC-Chairperson

(PDI–Nov. 29, 2007)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

Head Office: 897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 899-4427; 897-8425 (Telefax)
Cubao: 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora) • **Makati:** 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370 •
Kalaw: 528-0213; 527-3342 • **Megamall:** 635-0219; 635-0220

More CLASSIFIED ADS on pages...

North Luzon Railway Coporation A11
DOLE-NCR A19
National Food Authority A19
Biliran Electric Cooperative B6
Victorias Milling Corporation B7
James Hao-Zamcelco B11
DOLE-RegIV B11

OBITUARIES

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and Life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die.

Doña Dolores Llanera Soriano vda. de Sarenas
"Nene"

peacefully joined our Lord and her husband Estong on November 27, 2007 at the age of 100.

Her children **LENY & FERMIN MARTIN, MYRNA & JOE PONCIANO, SANDY** (†) **& LINDA SARENAS, AMY & MANUEL PASION, ERNIE & ADELING SARENAS, SYLVETTE SARENAS** (†), **LEO & LUMEN SARENAS, YVONNE & DAN ALCANTARA**; grandchildren & great-grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Nene lies in state at De La STRADA Church, Katipunan Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 1, 2007 at LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK, MARIKINA CITY after the 10:00 AM Mass.

Our Beloved

PRIMITIVA M. DRILON

*Peacefully joined the LORD and her husband, Cesar Sr.,
on her birthday, the 27th day of November, at the age of 84.*

Her loving children, **Frank** & **Mila**, **Cesar Jr.** & **Carol**, **Eleanor** & **Carlo**, **Julius** & **Daisy**, grandchildren **Eliza** & **Christian**, **Patrick**, **Candy**, **Ian**, **Kathy**, **Karla**, **Kit**, **Niña**, **JV** & **Mikey** and great-grandchild, **Lia**, request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Anne Memorial Chapel, Molo Church, Iloilo City.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 1, 2007 at the Christ the King Memorial Park, after the 2:30 P.M. mass at the Molo Church, Iloilo City.

ATTY. VITO BANUSING LEGASPI

June 15, 1939 – November 27, 2007
Died in the Grace of the Lord at the age of 68 years old.

His bereaved wife **JOSEFINA "JOJIE,"** children **CLARE, MARIS** & **VINCENT** and **BIN-BIN**, grandchildren **GIAN, ERINNE, YNA, NIÑO**, brothers **TOTO** & **NENE** and **EMILIO** (†) & **CLYDIE**, sisters **CARING** & **ODONG** (†), **LILING** & **VALENTIN**, nephews & nieces and other relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc., # 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, December 2, 2007 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City at 3:00 P.M.

Our Dearly Beloved "Mama"

RUFINA AÑONUEVO TIUSECO

OF IRIGA CITY AND QUEZON CITY

*Peacefully joined her Creator, her loving husband, **Atty. Manuel S. Tiuseco**,
and her sons **Eunemio** and **Edgardo** (**Dex**),
on November 27, 2007 at the age of 86.*

Her loving children **Dr. Antonio Tiuseco**, **Dr. Erlinda Dacanay**, **Atty. Francio Manlapaz**, **Atty. Manuel (Noel) Tiuseco**, **Clarissa Mena**, **(M.A.)** and **Ariel Tiuseco**, daughters and sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest and everlasting peace.

Her remains lie in state at the Sanctuarium, 739 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, December 2, 2007 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Quezon City.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again." —2 Corinthians 5:4-5

So deeply loved, and so sorely missed…
On the Third Death Anniversary of

JOHNSON ROBERT L. GO, SR.

(October 11, 1934 – December 1, 2004)

Holy Masses will be offered on December 1, 2007 at the following churches:

Basilica Minore, Piat, Cagayan	8:00 a.m.
Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Q.C.	6:00 p.m.
Holy Family Chapel, Eastwood, Libis, Q.C.	12:15 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills West, San Juan	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Broadway, Q.C.	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, San Juan	6:15 p.m.
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace, EDSA Cor Ortigas Avenue, Q.C.	6:30 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Bel Air, Makati City	6:30 p.m.
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Manjuyod, Negros Oriental	6:00 a.m.
St. Francis Parish Church, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City	6:00 p.m.
St. James the Great Parish, Cuenca Street, Alabang	6:00 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Arnaiz Street, Makati City	6:00 p.m.
St. Peter's Cathedral, Tuguegarao City	6:00 a.m.

*Johnson will always be gratefully remembered by those
whose lives he enriched with his wisdom, humor, and quiet grace;
who were inspired by the example of his fairness, humility,
and strength of character; and
who received so much more from him than he ever asked for in return.*

. Please offer a prayer for his eternal repose.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
● Copy of Death Certificate
● Any identification document (I.D.)

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Foreign investors push retention of income tax perks

RP share of inflows in Asean getting smaller

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE JOINT FOREIGN CHAMBERS has intensified calls for the retention of income tax holidays, noting that the Philippines has lagged behind in Southeast Asia in terms of the share of investment inflows when the region was receiving record amounts.

The JFC includes the American, Australia-New Zealand, British, Canadian, European, Japanese and Korean business chambers as well as the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters.

Citing data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the JFC said in a statement that while foreign direct investments (FDI) to the country doubled from 2005 to 2006, it was getting a smaller share in Asean FDI at 3.2 percent.

In 1999, the Philippines accounted for 7 percent or $1.7 billion of the $26.5 billion in inflows in Asean. The value for the country neared $2.3 billion in 2006, but the regional total almost tripled to $72 billion in the same year.

"With record levels of FDI flowing into Asia and Asean, the Philippines is receiving a very small percent for a country with a population approaching 90 million and growing at the highest rate in Asean," the group said.

The JFC added that pending bills in Congress, especially those related to income tax holidays, were important because these must be designed to raise the level of future FDIs that the country can attract.

The foreign chambers shot down proposals to do away with tax perks, saying that if the government was having little success in improving the problems that keep investors out, it would not want to eliminate some of the incentives which bring them in.

Further, the JFC lamented the continuing disagreement between the trade and finance departments—and their allies in Congress—over whether incentives should be kept or phased out.

"This has generated repeated confusing media coverage and created uncertainty about the future incentives regime, notably for foreign investors who compare the Philippine incentives package with other countries," JFC said.

Culling data from Southeast Asian governments, the Philippines was offering an average ITH package of four to seven years—others offered as short as three and as long as eight years—while it has the highest corporate income tax at 35 percent similar to Indonesia.

The JFC pushed for income tax holidays of up to eight years but also urged Congress to consider allowing an ITH of as long as 15 years like in Singapore for "extremely exceptional investments."

Such investments could be on projects worth at least $1 billion and expected to create between 20,000 and 30,000 jobs during the duration of the ITH.

BILIRAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(BILECO)
Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran
Tel. Nos. (053) 500-9039 to 42 Fax No. (053) 500-9744
e-mail: bilecomsd@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO BID

Biliran Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BILECO) invites interested parties who are qualified to bid for Various Line Hardware, Materials and Distribution Transformers with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of Php 2,137,254.90 to be funded by the NDCC subsidy under the CARE Program.

Bid documents shall be issued only to eligible Bidder on December 10-12, 2007 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) at the Secretariat of Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). Pre-Bid Conference will be held at BILECO MPB, Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran on December 13, 2007/10:00 a.m. Bid Opening will be conducted on January 2, 2008/10:00 a.m. at BILECO MPB, Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran.

Bid documents of Bidder shall be evaluated using a non-discretionary "PASS/FAIL" criteria. All particulars relative to the eligibility tendering, competitive bidding, and award of Contract shall be in accordance with BILECO Policy No. 98-13 as amended. All proposals shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the Bidder's offer to the Contract put out to bid and shall be subject to Post qualification before an award is made.

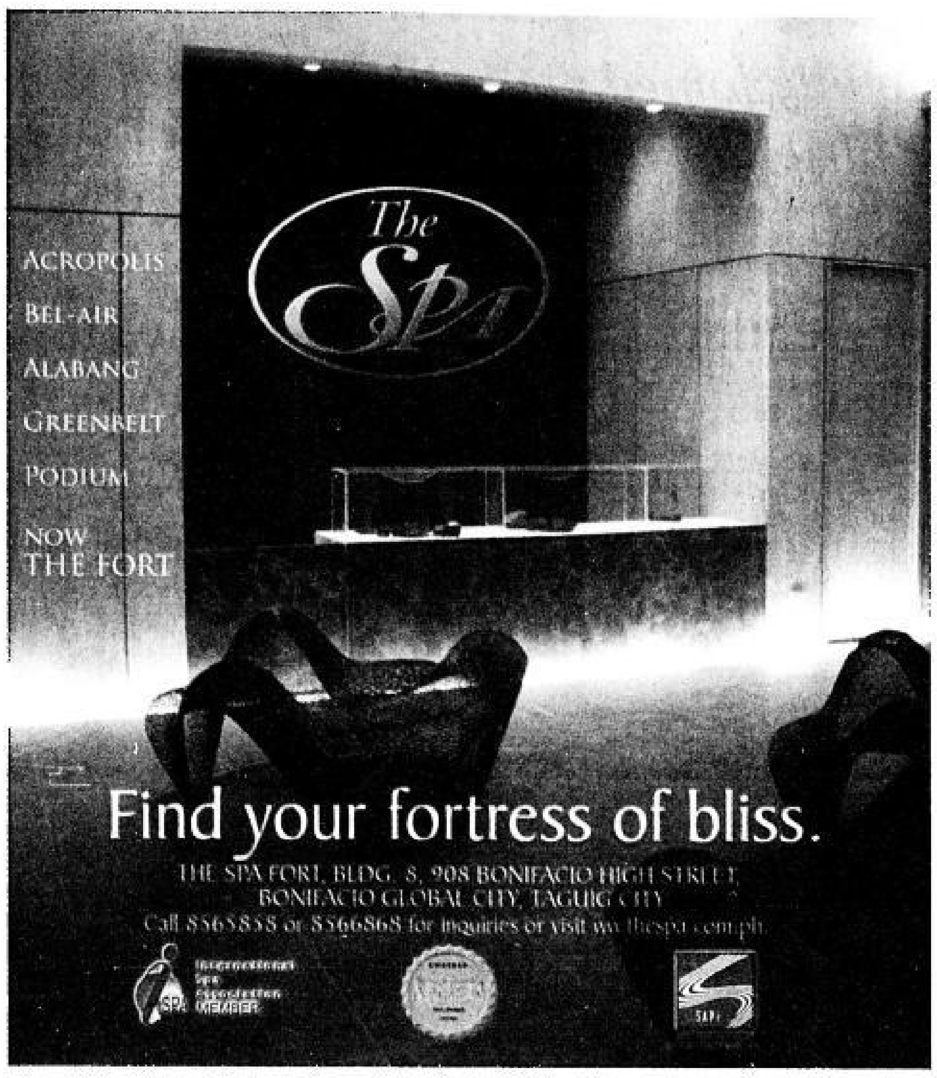
BILECO reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, declare a failure of bidding and to waive any required formality therein, and or to make an award to Bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the electric cooperative.

A letter expressing the intent of the Bidder to bid must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee prior to purchase of Bid Documents. All communications shall be addressed to the undersigned on the above address with telephone number (053) 500-9041 and facsimile number (053) 500-9744.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO P. ROMERO, M.E.**
TSD Manager
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Noted:
(Sgd.) **MARLON B. ROA**
General Manager

(PDI-November 22 & 29, 2007)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BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY, TAGUIG CITY
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SPA MEMBER

Cuisia named ...

From page B1

ues formation; and effective stewardship within the confines of the highest standard of business and management practice.

MAP said Cuisia was chosen for his leading Philamlife in the firm's successful efforts to remain the country's leading life insurance provider.

Cuisia was also cited for work in seeing to the growth and development of the former Insular Bank of Asia and America—formed with the merger of two small banks—and for steering Union Bank of the Philippines, newly created out of the remains of a financially troubled investment bank.

MAP added that the executive was given the award for the following outstanding achievements:

- His work in policy reforms, most notably a more open and liberal foreign exchange environment, as chair of the Monetary Board and governor of the Central Bank;
- His "exemplary guardianship and improvements in membership benefits as administrator of the Social Security System;
- His "keen and sincere sense" of corporate social responsibility through leadership in business organizations and corporate citizenship programs of the companies that he has headed; and
- Having consistently maintained a proven track record of integrity, professional competence and strong leadership in both private and public sectors.

Cuisia is the 30th person to be conferred the award in the four-decade history of the association.

Tagaytay Highlands
Set Your Sights Higher
IT'S ALL HAPPENING
WAY UP SOUTH!

BOC workers to receive ₱536M

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT IS EXpected to distribute P536 million to employees of the Bureau of Customs as reward for generating revenues well beyond the target set for 2006.

Overperforming employees of the BOC and the Bureau of Internal Revenue will be rewarded, according to the Lateral Attrition Law which took effect in 2006.

The reward should have been distributed to BOC workers early this year, or immediately after the 2006 collections had been computed. But the reward grant had been delayed due to budget constraints.

The Customs bureau in 2006 had been tasked to collect P196 billion in revenue, mostly in the form of import duties.

But the BOC actually turned over 198.2 billion.

That same year, the BIR failed to meet its target.

Customs Deputy Commissioner Reynaldo Umali said the BOC was pleased to know that the government was already preparing the grant of rewards for customs employees.

It remains to be seen whether the BOC will again hit its target for 2007. The BOC has been complaining that the appreciation of the peso has resulted in lost potential revenue for the agency.

MIGUEL J. OSSORIO PENSION FOUNDATION, INC.

INVITATION TO BID

SUBJECT: SALE OF VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC. SHARES OWNED BY THE MIGUEL J. OSSORIO PENSION FOUNDATION, INC.

By virtue of the authority vested upon the VMC Retirement Committee as appointed trustee of the Miguel J. Ossorio Pension Foundation, Inc. (MJOPFI) for purposes of dissolving and liquidating MJOPFI pursuant to the provisions of the Corporation Code of the Philippines, the Committee wishes to invite all interested parties to submit their bid proposals for the sale of MJOPFI's **One Hundred Seventy Million One Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Nine (170,133,159)** shares of stock of Victorias Milling Company, Inc., representing ten and 66/100 percent **(10.66%)** of the total **subscribed shares** of Victorias Milling Company, Inc. (VMC).

All interested bidders must submit their sealed Bid Proposals in accordance with the Terms of Reference, which may be secured from VMC's Executive Office at VMC Millsite, Victorias City, Negros Occidental or at its Makati Office, 9126 Sultana cor. Honradez Streets, Barangay Olympia, Makati City. Bid Proposals must be submitted to MR. ABELARDO E. BUGAY, VMC Retirement Committee Chairman, VMC Compound, Victorias City, Negros Occidental, **not later than 5:00 P.M.** of **5 December 2007**, containing the following:

a. Letter of Intent specifying the amount of bid per share and amount of total bid for the full portion of shares offered for sale;
b. Manager's Check equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price offered valid for sixty (60) days (Bidder's Bond);
c. In case of Corporations, a Board Resolution or Secretary's Certificate showing the authority of the bidder to participate in the bidding.

For further information, please contact **Mr. Abelardo E. Bugay** at telephone no. **(034)399-3378**, and Fax No. **(034)399-3675**.

VMC RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

(PDI - November 29, 2007)

ING CFO OF THE YEAR AWARD

We honor the One

ING
CFO
AWARD

In every endeavor there is a special name and place for the one that leads the rest.
The one that proves that the IDEAL can be real.

The world of financial leadership has found such as one.

THE ING-FINEX CFO OF THE YEAR AWARD
November 29, 2007
Quezon Ballroom, Shangri-la Hotel Makati
6:30 pm

Our co-presentors:
FINEX RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT GOV. JOSE B. FERNANDEZ, JR. CENTER FOR BANKING AND FINANCE
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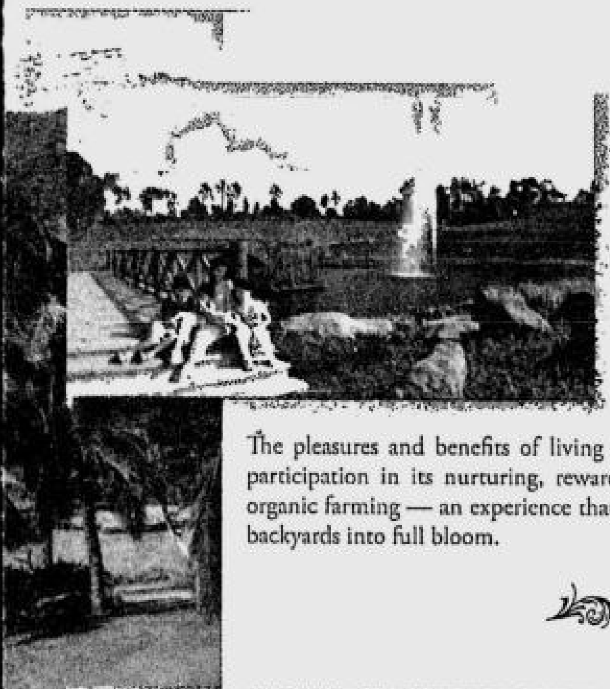
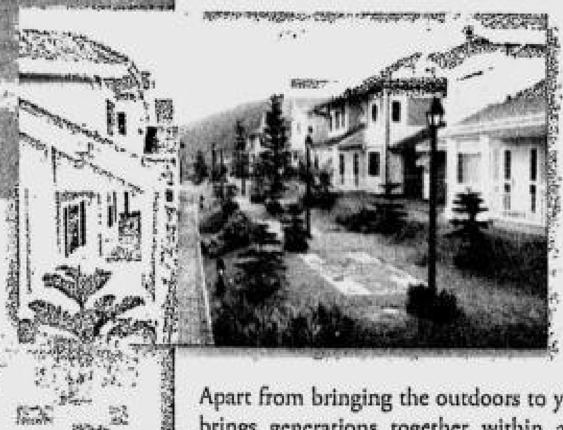


PLANTATION HILLS Greenlands

Plantation Hills offers open spaces for agri-development, where only 25% of lots may host a structural footprint, with the rest devoted to your garden or mini-farm.

The pleasures and benefits of living close to nature, as well as hands-on participation in its nurturing, reward you with the healthful delights of organic farming — an experience that inspires everyone to bring their own backyards into full bloom.



The Parks at SARATOGA HILLS GREENLANDS

The Parks at Saratoga Hills features developed home lots that you can move into for immediate comfort.

Gardens and courtyards bring Nature into this cozy village with individual parks for each cluster of American country homes.

Apart from bringing the outdoors to your front door, this enviable sanctuary brings generations together within a congenial atmosphere of fence-free neighborliness.

The Verandas at Saratoga Hills

The Verandas at Saratoga Hills will entitle you to open-space living and wrap-around views from the comfortable vantage of tree-banked porches or mountain-front terraces.

These roofed, open-sided living spaces at the front of each home maximize enjoyment of the soothing breezes and landscaped scenery.

Here leisure living allows an intimate claim to the great outdoors, while evoking the romance and splendor of the American South.

Here, the worship of Nature reaches up from ground level in the shared commitment to build a greener future!

The Choice is Yours!

All three sanctums are nestled in a bucolic environment, affording your family and loved ones a convenient escape to rarefied air, fields of dreams, pastoral surroundings — where the spirit of community starts with the gift of communion with the morning sun, all the way to the splendor of sunset.

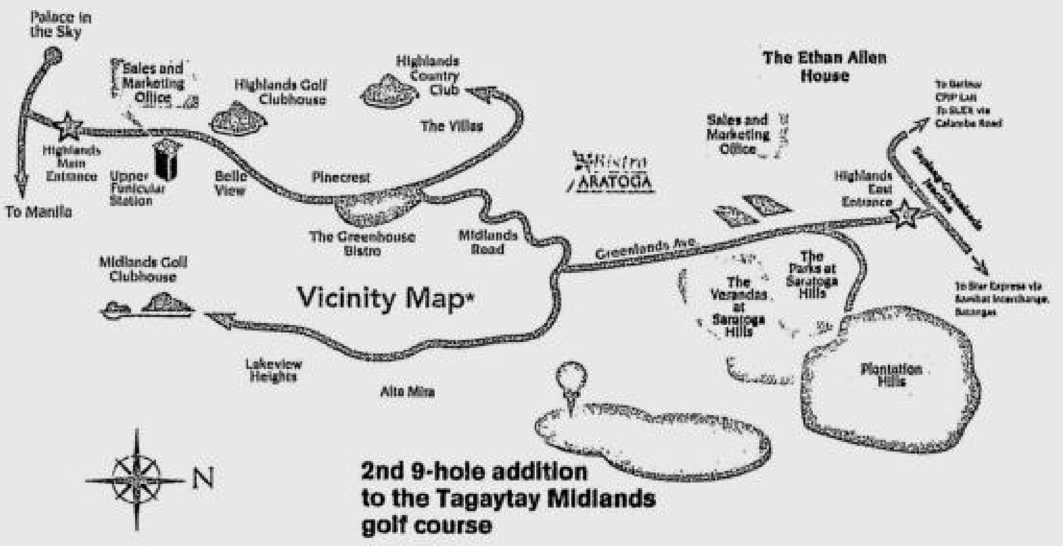
Any choice to become a homeowner in The Greenlands rewards you with the prized aura of a holistic setting, where you may reciprocate the pristine bounty of Nature.

There is something for everyone at The Greenlands, while everything is under one umbrella within the Tagaytay Highlands complex, including privacy and a plethora of viewpoints.

Acquiring a home in The Greenlands allows easy access to the two championship courses in Tagaytay Highlands and The Midlands. Both are playable by Highlands and Midlands golf club members, so that the reciprocity allows enjoyment of 36 holes of golf.

The upcoming Lakeside Course will start with a 9-hole addition adjacent to the Midlands golf course. A second 9-hole addition will be situated a stone's throw from The Verandas.

The privilege of playing any of the three courses — for a total of 54 holes of golf — is but part of the benefits of a recreational lifestyle in a prime leisure environment.



* Subject to change without prior notice.
** Subject to approval by the Membership Committee in accordance with the Club rules, regulations and policies.

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Take advantage of easy payment plans now, while lots are still available.

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At 60

REMEMBERS WITH GRATITUDE and GREAT AFFECTION

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Arsenio P. Dizon

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Luis D. Panlilio

Amado N. Racasa

Deogracias T. Reyes

Jose B.L. Reyes

Ramon Sunico

Lorenzo M. Tañada

Rafael T. Tirona

At the

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS NIGHT

DUE RECOGNITION AND HONOR SHALL BE BESTOWED UPON 60 OF MLQU'S MOST OUTSTANDING ALUMNI WHO HAVE TRULY DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN THEIR CHOSEN FIELDS OF ENDEAVOR. INDEED, IN THE ROSTER OF EMINENT QUEZONIANS, THEY ARE THE 'POLISHED DIAMONDS'.

Date : November 29,2007, Thursday at 5 o'clock p.m.
Venue : Wack-Wack Golf & Country Club, William J. Shaw Pavilion
Wack-Wack Road, Mandaluyong City
Attire : Formal (Coat & Tie or Barong Tagalog)
Entertainment : Classical and contemporary songs as interpreted by the 'Angelos'.
Dinner music : String Ensemble
(Tickets at P750.00 each, inclusive of dinner and entertainment)

Augusto M. Barcelon
Banker

Ambrosio P. Cantada
Entrepreneur

Efren Kaulayao V. Faylona
Law Practitioner

Dean Lorenzo F. Miravite
Educator

Ambassador Sedfrey A. Ordoñez
Secretary of Justice

Justice Ricardo C. Puno
Court Administrator, Court of Appeals

Congressman Benjamin M. Tabios
BIR Commissioner

Dr. Amado C. Dizon PhD.
Educator

Justice Alicia V. Sempio-Dy
Court of Appeals

Justice Isagani A. Cruz
Supreme Court

Benildo G. Hernandez
Law Practitioner

Wenceslao R. Lagumbay
Senator

Atty. Jose V. Yap
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Pres. Justice Manuel L. Pamaran
Sandigang Bayan

Atty. Augusto B. Sunico
University President

Ambassador Vesta I. Cuyugan
Foreign Service

Justice Nicolas P. Lapeña Jr.
Court of Appeals

Saklolo A. Leaño
Law Practitioner

Norberto B. Quisumbing Jr.
Founder, NORKIS Group of Cos. & Entrepreneur

Antonio J. Villegas
City Mayor, Manila

Justice Ernani Cruz Puño
Court Administrator, Supreme Court

Justice Luis L. Victor
Associate Justice, Court of Appeals

Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
Court of Appeals

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Law Practitioner

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Sandigan Bayan

Congressman Rodolfo B. Albano Jr.
Chairman, Energy Regulatory Board

Justice Jose A.R. Melo
Supreme Court

Justice Perlita J. Tria-Tirona
Court of Appeals

Justice Artemio G. Tuquero
Secretary of Justice

Justice Jose C. Vitug Jr.
Supreme Court

Jesus F. Guerrero
Deputy Ombudsman, City Fiscal, RTC

Rufino S. Cruz

Magtanggol C. Gunigundo
Chairman, PCGG

Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing Jr.
Supreme Court

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Administrator, PEZA

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Architecture

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Associate Justice, Court of Apppeals

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Sec. Roberto M. Pagdanganan
Cabinet Member

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Court of Appeals

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Clerk of Court (en Banc) Supreme Court

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Court of Appeals

David L. Balangue
Chairman & Managing Partner, SGV & Co.

Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz
POEA Administrator

Francis O. Monera
Management Expert

Janet B. Sarmiento-Amurao
Chemist-Educator

Dr. Ruperto P. Somera
Taxation Expert

PBGen. Avelino I. Razon
Chief PNP

Justice Venicio T. Escolin
Supreme Court

Justice Conrado M. Molina
Sandiganbayan

Justice Serafin E. Camilon
Court of Appeals

Gen. Romeo C. Espino
Chief of Staff, AFP

Justice Roberto M. Lagman
Sandigang Bayan

Willie C. Gan
Ambassador, Washington D.C.

Dennis M. Villa-Ignacio
Special Prosecutor, Ombudsman

And at the

ACHIEVERS' AWARDS NIGHT

DUE RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION SHALL BE BESTOWED UPON 137 EMINENT MLQU ALUMNI WHO EXEMPLIFY THE TRUE MEANING OF WHAT IT IS TO BE A QUEZONIAN IN THEIR FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION.

Date : December 8,2007, Saturday at 7 o'clock p.m.
Venue: Manuel L. Quezon University, Monzon Hall Campus Along R. Hidalgo St., Quiapo, Manila

MLQU's Commitment: Molding future leaders and achievers

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Ma. Victoria O. Chan	Executive Vice President
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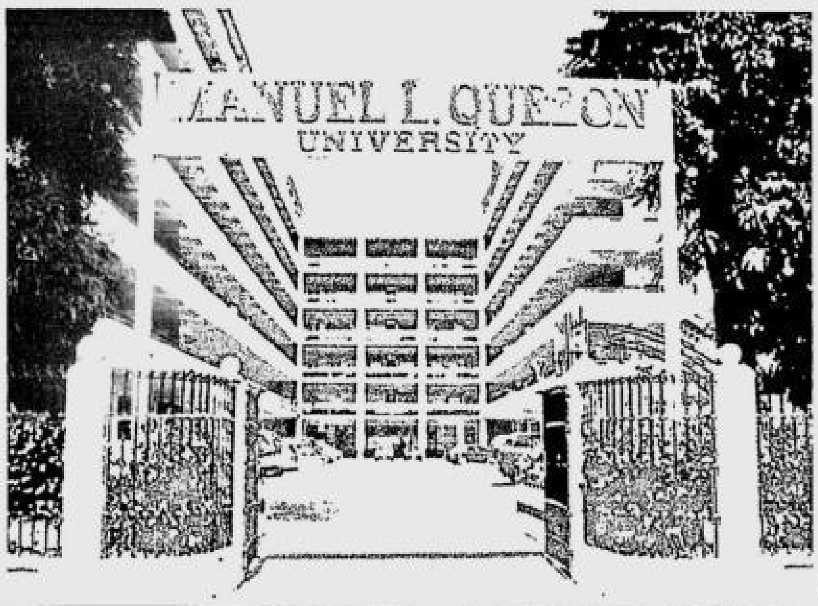
Edgardo S. Monzon	VP Comptroller
Candido S. Dizon	VP Planning and Development
Martha A. Mogol	VP Academic Affairs
Antonio A. Agustin	Registrar



Academic Units

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Dean, School of Law
Virginia P. Ganir, E.T.C., B.S.E, M.A., Ph. D.
Dean, School of Education, Arts and Sciences
Mayumi P. Barbon, B.S.C., C.P.A., M.S.C.
Dean, School of Accountancy and Business Arts
Leticia L. Lava, A.A., A.B., M.A., Ph. D.
Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Rogelio M. Avenido, PEE.
Dean, School of Engineering
Jesus B. Arceo, B.S. Crim., A.B., M.P.A.
Dean, School of Criminal Justice
Mario S. Valderrama, B.S. Arch.
Dean, School of Architecture
Carlo B. Moterey, B.S.C.S.
OIC, School of Information Technology

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3. Professional Education
4. Bachelor Of Science In Foreign Service
5. Bachelor Of Arts In Political Science
6. Bachelor Of Science In Psychology
7. Bachelor Of Arts In Journalism

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1. Bachelor Of Science In Accountancy
2. Bachelor Of Science In Commerce
   Major in:
   a. Finance
   b. Marketing
   c. Management
3. BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (BSBA)
   Major in:
   a. Marketing Management
   b. Financial Management
4. BACHELOR OFSCIENCE IN SECRETARIAL ADMINISTRATION
   Major in:
   * Office Management
   * Computer Secretarial Education (4 yrs.)
   * Two-year Junior Secretarial
   * Two-year Computer Secretarial

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2. Bachelor Of Science In Computer Engineering
3. Bachelor Of Science In Civil Engineering
4. Bachelor Of Science In Mechanical Engineering
5. Bachelor Of Science In Electrical Engineering
6. Bachelor Of Science - Industrial Engineering

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  Guidance and Counseling
Doctor of Philosophy
  Business Management
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  Filipino (Lit. & Linguistics)
  Psychology
Doctor of Public Administration
Master of Laws
  General Course
  Taxation
Master of Public Administration
Master of Science
Library Science
Mathematics
Taxation
Master in Business Administration
  - Computer Management
  - General Management
  - Industrial Management
  - Information System
  - Marketing Management
Master of Arts
  English
  History
  Guidance
  Filipino
  Political Science
  Psychology
  Special Education
  Educational Management and Planning
Master of Arts in Teaching
  Mathematics
  Science

SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Bachelor Of Science In Criminology

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Bachelor Of Science In Architecture

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
1. Bachelor Of Science In Computer Science (Ladderized Program)
2. Bachelor Of Science In Information Management (Ladderized Program)
3. Associate In Computer Science

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1. Kindergarten
2. Elementary
3. High School

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MLQU: Pro Patria et Jure

"MLQU acknowledges with special pride the Notable Achievers among its alumni who have lived and worked by the Quezonian tenet of "Pro Patria et Jure" (For Country and Justice)."

ROSTER OF ACHIEVERS AWARDEES

ACCOUNTANCY & BUSINESS ARTS

1. Rex Manansala
2. Corazon Manalo-Ordoñez
3. Reynaldo R. Barbon
4. Renato B. Sta. Maria
5. Romeo S. Ebdane, Jr.
6. Maurito C. Tarobal
7. Ruperto E. Mercado
8. Beatriz Balangue-Atienza
9. Josefina C. Sincioco

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2. Ramon Eizmendi
3. Pacifico V. Estrella, Jr.
4. Rudy O. Ferrer
5. Edna Avenido-Lim
6. Porfirio Tolentino
7. Mario S. Valderrama

CRIMINOLOGY

1. Atty. Elmer DR Susano
2. Atty. Henry De Vera
3. PSupt Marissa Salgo

EDUCATION, ARTS & SCIENCES

1. Prof. Laura C. Sunico
2. Dr. Leticia L. Lava
3. Rosalina Bustamante
4. Epifania Baladhay Dungca
5. Atty. Liza Julie Interior-Madera
6. Atty. Maribel Mariano-Beltran
7. Pablo Mabini
8. Milagros M. Catabona
9. Amelita Vergel de Dios-Ropa
10. Thomas Ongoco
11. Gene Panganiban
12. Isabel Panganiban-Ortiguerra

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1. Engr. Gerardo Cabreros
2. Edgardo Domingo
3. Cong. Generoso Tulagan
4. Engr. Restituto C. Roque
5. Engr. Renato (Butch) Ubay
6. Engr. Mardiwang Recato
7. Engr. Rogelio M. Avenido

GRADUATE STUDIES

A. Academe

1. Mr. Aminola P. Abaton
2. Dr. Ma. Luisa Salonga-Agamata
3. Dr. Mayumi P. Barbon
4. Prof. Zenaida M. Beltran
5. Dr. Nelson L. Boongaling
6. Dr. Rita P. Brawner
7. Dr. Yolanda T. Capulong
8. Dr. Fely S. Castillo
9. Dr. Olivia F. de Leon
10. Mr. Mariano L. del Mundo
11. Dr. Paz D. Flores
12. Dr. Virginia P. Ganir
13. Dr. Dante Guevarra
14. Dr. Felipe I. Iledan, Jr.
15. Dr. Isabel F. Inlayo
16. Dr. Verdades P. Jimenez
17. Dr. Ma. Cristina A. Robles
18. Atty. Jose S. Samson
19. Dr. Fely C. Simon
20. PCSUPT. Vidal Querol
21. Cecilia R. Patricio
22. Dr. Lourdes Lim
23. Dr. Minda L. Concepcion

B. Law Enforcement

1. PCSUPT. Silverio D. Alarcio, Jr.
2. GEN. Angel G. Atutubo
3. PDIR. Geary L. Barias
4. PDIR. Esnesto V. Belen
5. PCSUPT Abner D. Cabalquinto
6. PCSUPT Jaime G. Caringal
7. PCSUPT Wilfredo D. Dulay, Sr.
8. PCSUPT Romeo C. Hilomen
9. PDIR. Servando M. Hizon
10. PCSUPT Eric Javier
11. PSUPT William S. Macavinta
12. PCSUPT Samuel D. Pagdilao
13. PSUPT Arnulfo Perez
14. PCSUPT Ismael R. Rafanan
15. PCSUPT Leocadio Salva Cruz Santiago
16. PCSUPT. Felizardo M. Serapio, Jr.
17. PCSUPT Luizo C. Ticman
18. PSUPT Roseller B./ Sta. Maria
19. PSUPT. Roger James SA Brillantes
20. PSSUPT Cipriano E. Querol, Jr.
21. PSSUPT Luis L. Saligumba
22. PCSUPT Luisito T. Palmera
23. PCSUPT Ray D. Roderos

C. Armed Forces

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2. BRIG GEN Arthur T. Tabaquero

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1. Jesus Banaga
2. Antonio Delgado
3. Dominador Taboga, Jr.
4. Heracleo Oracion

LAW

1. Bennie A. Adefuin-Dela Cruz
2. Omar U. Amin
3. Maximiano C. Asuncion +
4. Manuel C. Herrera +
5. Corona E. Ibay-Somera
6. Regina G. Ordonez-Benitez
7. Segio L. Pestaño
8. Pedro A. Ramirez
9. Bernardo Ll. Salas
10. Augusto M. Amores
11. Alberto G. Romulo
12. Alfredo E. Abueg, Jr.
13. Benjamin S. Abalos
14. Gen. Hamilton B. Dimaya
15. Col Vicente Pascual, Jr.
16. Santiago Y. Toledo
17. Mariano M. Mison
18. Raul C. Flores
19. Rodolfo Q. Agbayani
20. Alfredo R. Enriquez
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23. Diego P. Atienza
24. Salic B. Dumarpa
25. Eligio P. Mallari
26. Ramon N. Casanova
27. Norberto S. Gonzales
28. Ponciano D. Subido
29. Gilbert D. Camaligan +
30. Amable M. Aguiluz
31. Juan J. Diaz
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34. Salvador D. Lising
35 Conrado S. Declaro
36. Martin B. Isidro
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46. Felicidad R. Gido
47. Cleto B. Señoren

MANUEL L. QUEZON UNIVERSITY

Congratulations on your 60th Year Anniversary

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Concepcion I, Marikina City; Tel. Nos.: 9489185, 9333506

QUEZON CITY ACADEMY
1144 E. Delos Santos Avenue Edsa, Quezon City

54 Years of Service to the Youth

Congratulations to the Manuel L. Quezon University on its 60th Anniversary! Justice Carmelino G. Alvendia, former Chairman of Quezon City Academy, was one of the founding fathers of MLQ Educational Institution in 1947.

Justice Alvendia was a firm believer in the value of education. In 1963 Justice Alvendia took over Quezon City Academy and transformed it to a progressive school, to train leaders and nationalistic citizens. Many administrators and faculty members of Quezon City Academy are proud alumni of Manuel L. Quezon University.

Parents and Grade 6 pupils and teachers are invited to visit QCA for a look-see at the academy's building, facilities and its learning environment.

For more inquiries dial the following telephone numbers:
•927-6326 •925-4695 •925-4694 •925-4697 •925-4691
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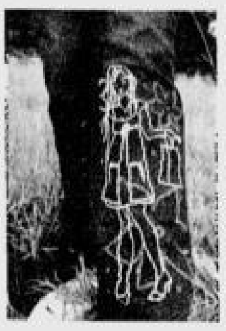
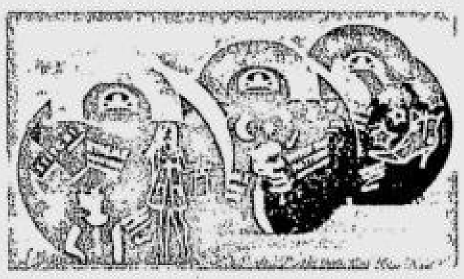
Congratulations to
Manuel L. Quezon University
on its Diamond (60th) Jubilee Celebration
Compliments from:
NORKIS GROUP OF COMPANIES

DMC Fashion Pattern Kits: Thread-y to trendy

DMC, MAKERS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY embroidery threads and crochet cottons, have launched three new design kits for craft and fashion lovers. The X-stitch! Fashion Pattern Kits come in cute bags with three different designs and personality to suit your fashion needs-the Moon and Stars kit, Stars and Shoes kit and the Flower Girl kit. Each kit allows you to experiment and create your own unique designs for your clothes, bags, shoes and other fashion accessories.





The Moon and Stars kit is perfect for stitching on edges of pants, collars, shoes and pockets. If you want to personalize your shirts and bags, the Stars and Shoes kit is ideal for you while the Flower Girl kit is great for pants, shirts, polo and bags too. All these kits contain metallic and embroidery threads, needle, waste canvass, patterns and easy to follow instructions for old and first-time stitchers. Waste canvass is used to help you make your designs, which you can remove after leaving only the design on your material.

The kits were designed allowing stitchers to experiment and create their own fashion statements. This is a new fashion activity for teens and their friends or for fashion lovers who want to create their own individual style. The kits are now available in all DMC stores nationwide or you may call Focus Global Inc at 634-8587 for inquiries. Open your Kit and a surprise bonus awaits you!

Concert for Beaterio De Madre Francisca Foundation

THE STA. CATALINA COLLEGE, MANILA WILL HOLD A FUND-RAIsing project for the benefit of the Beaterio De Madre Francisca Foundation Inc which will coincide with the celebration of the 301 years of the foundation of the school. This is a musical concert titled "Jay-R in Sounds and Rhythm" featuring Jay-R with the special participation of Kris Lawrence and introducing Twinkle and Arlo. This will be held at the Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas (Folk Arts Theater) on Nov. 30. The main objective of this undertaking is to provide and sustain the existing school programs, particularly for the scholarships, catechetical and extension services programs, improvement of school facilities, and the spiritual and professional development of school personnel. Tickets are available at Sta. Catalina College, Manila (734-6861 or 734-6817) and CCP box office (832-1125).

OFW FAMILY CLUB PARTNERS WITH TUTUBAN MALL

The Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) Family Club, the country's pioneer group for OFWs and their families, will celebrate its 6th annual grand celebration in cooperation with the Bantay OFW Radio Program (DZXL RMN 558 kHz) on Dec. 7 at the Tutuban Mall in Divisoria. The grand scale event will feature a job-fair for overseas jobs, medical mission, trade fair, activities for the family marked with games and performances from guest artists and in-house talents all in one venue. Tutuban Mall is both an icon and a historical landmark in Divisoria. An important segment of Tutuban's loyal patrons are OFWs and their families. Tutuban has partnered with one of the most reputable groups for OFWs. The OFW Family Club was founded by former Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Roy Señeres. The group, now on its 6th year, was organized to cater to the needs of OFWs and their families in the Philippines. Shown, from left, are Roy Ragudos, Ad and PR officer, Tutuban Properties Inc, Ding Espiritu, vice president for sales and marketing, Tutuban Properties Inc, Hannah Seneres, EVP, OFW Family Club; Ana Manansala, managing director of AMPR Consultancy and PR for Tutuban Properties Inc.

SPLASH LAUNCHES BABY SPA NATURALS CARE LINE

Splash Corp formally launched Nov. 19 the new Baby Spa Naturals Care line at the Palm Grove in Rockwell, Makati City. The new BabySpa Naturals Care line consists of VCO Anti-Bacterial Baby Wash, VCO Skin and Hair Nourishing Baby Oil and the breakthrough VCO Skin Protecting Liquid Powder made from the purest extracts of virgin coconut oil (VCO). It's the first of its kind in the Philippines and the first brand to hinge on the credibility of the natural ingredient VCO. Shown are, from left, Jessin R. Soriano, president and chief operating officer, Splash Corp; Daphne Oseña-Paez, event host; Jun P. Porte, chief operating officer for domestic operations, Splash Corp, and Rainier Joseph P. Dagala of the marketing and brand development division, Splash Corp.

MLQU celebrates diamond today

THE MANUEL L. QUEZON UNIVERSITY invites all alumni to its Diamond (60th) Jubilee celebration, which kicks off with the "Outstanding Alumni Awards Night" on Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, William J. Shaw Pavilion, Wack Wack Road, Mandaluyong City.

On this night, 60 of MLQU's most illustrious alumni will be honored by the University for having reached the pinnacle of success in their chosen fields. Among them are Supreme Court justices (Venecio Escolin, Isagani A. Cruz, Jose C. Vitug Jr, Jose AR Melo, Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Ruben T. Reyes), entrepreneurs (Norberto B. Quisumbing Jr, Ambrosio Cantada), senators (Wenceslao R. Lagumbay, Wigberto E. Tañada), financial management experts (David Balangue, Augusto Barcelon, Francis Monera, Ruperto Somera), ambassadors (Sedfrey Ordoñez, Vesta Cuyugan) and military/police generals (Romeo Espino, Avelino Razon).

This dinner affair will be enlivened further by entertainment numbers performed by the "Angelos", a group of male classical singers in the mold of the world-famous El Divo group. The evening's ticket is priced at P750 only.

On Dec. 7 and 8, Diamond Anniversary activities will be centered in Monzon Hall campus along R. Hidalgo Street, Quiapo, Manila. Holy mass will start each day, after which different exhibits will be open for viewing. Talent and beauty contests, sports competitions, a raffle draw and a band concert are likewise slated. To cap it off, a Unity and Recognition Night will close the celebration on Dec 8 wherein more alumni achievers will be recognized and honored.

For inquiries, call 734-0121 to 24, local 108 (Manda) and local 112 (Loida).

BOC seeks hike in import tariffs

Authorities hope to neutralize impact of strengthening peso

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS wants an increase in the tariffs slapped on imports to offset the foregone revenue resulting from the appreciation of the peso.

Customs Commissioner Napoloen Morales said that if the government would require the BOC to meet its revenue target for next year in the face of a strengthening peso, then there should be a measure to compensate for the ill effects of a strong currency on revenues.

"We should increase our tariffs to help attain revenue targets," Morales told reporters.

Also, he believes the government can have a way of increasing the rates of import duties, despite the environment of declining tariffs in the Asean region in the promotion of trade.

Revenue losses due to the peso's appreciation is a valid excuse for slowing down on the commitment of implementing tariff cuts, Morales said.

He added that the Philippines may have no problem increasing tariffs because the rates it slaps on imports are lower than those charged by some neighboring countries.

Currently, Morales said, the average tariff slapped on imported goods stands at 4 percent. Morales suggested that duties on several products be increased so that the average tariff will be at 5 percent.

Morales said that for every one unit appreciation of the peso against the US dollar, the BOC loses P2.7 billion in potential revenue.

He noted that the BOC's collection target for next year, set at P254 billion, was based on the assumption that the peso would average at 46 to a dollar. Recent forecasts, however, said that the peso could be stronger next year than its current value, which at present hovers in the 43-to-a-dollar territory.

The BOC's 2008 target is 11-percent higher than this year's goal of P228 billion. The increase was set even though Customs officials had complained that this year's target was difficult to attain because of the strong peso.

Morales said the appreciation of the peso aggravated the effects of lower-than-expected volume of imports on BOC collection.

He said the government assumed a 10-percent imports growth this year when the P228-billion target was set. But the latest figures showed that imports growth had averaged at only 4.4 percent in the first nine months of the year.

It is crucial for the BOC and the Bureau of Internal Revenue to attain their collection targets next year, when the government hopes to balance its budget after 10 years of being in the red.

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this city per requisite under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards, invites ALL Interested Bidders/Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/equipment/items, to wit:

No.	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	3	UNITS	50KVA (PHILEC BRAND), BRAND NEW DOUBLE BUSHING, RATED 13.2/7.62KV, AGENCY PRICE - 110,000.00/UNIT
2	1	UNIT	75KVA (PHILEC BRAND), BRAND NEW DOUBLE BUSHING, RATED 13.2/7.62KV AGENCY PRICE 145,000.00/UNIT
3	1	UNIT	100KVA (PHILEC BRAND), BRAND NEW DOUBLE BUSHING, RATED 13.2/7.62KV 180,500.00/UNIT
4	1	UNIT	167KVA (PHILEC BRAND), BRAND NEW DOUBLE BUSHING, RATED 13.2/7.62KV AGENCY PRICE 296,400.00/UNIT NOTE: IN PREPARATION FOR THE INCOMING ADD'L. LOAD THIS DEC.

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 p.m. of December 4, 2007 and no documents appertaining thereto, shall be accepted thereafter.

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on December 13, 2007.

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m. of December 13, 2007. Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) REINERIO R. RAMOS
General Manager

(PDI - Nov. 28 & 29, 2007)

Inflation said to slightly rise in November

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S ANNUAL INFLATION may have inched up in November due to higher gas and food prices, as well as an upward adjustment in wages, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas projected.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday estimated that the year-on-year inflation for the month of November would range from a high of 3.1 percent to a low of 2.4 percent. In October, inflation reached 2.7 percent.

Inflation this month may be somewhat higher than in October also because of the increase in cost of living allowance in some regions, Tetangco said.

"Mitigating upside pressures are the peso appreciation and reduction in prices of other food items," he explained. "Overall, the inflation environment is expected to continue to be favorable."

The sharp appreciation of the peso—reported to be Asia's best performing currency this year—has tempered the spike in local gasoline prices by about P2 from January to October, based on a BSP report presented to Malacañang.

According to the report, every time the peso gains by one percent against the US dollar, inflation will be reduced by about 0.14 percentage point.

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board also noted that farm harvests were improving so that, even though agricultural production was slowing down, the likely output for the fourth quarter could be better than a year ago.

For the whole of the fourth quarter, the BSP expects the country's year-on-year inflation to range between 2.6 and 2.9 percent.

The country's inflation—or the average increase in consumer prices based on a basket of goods consumed by a typical household—has averaged at 2.6 percent in the first 10 months.

Aboitiz group bags Ambuklao-Binga ...

From page B1

very good," he said.

He added that the average per-megawatt price achieved so far from the previous sales was almost equivalent to the industry rule-of-thumb cost of producing 1 MW of new capacity.

"This is a manifestation of the interest of the foreigners in the privatization process. They have never been so interest in privatization in the Philippines than they are now," he said.

SNAP Hydro has 540 days from the award of the sale contract to remit 40 percent of the bid price to PSALM. The balance would be payable over seven years.

In a separate interview, Aboitiz Power president and chief executive Erramon Aboitiz said SNAP Hydro would initially take advantage of PSALM's deferred payment scheme for 60 percent of the bid price for the plant package.

He said SNAP Hydro was looking at expanding the plant by another 20-30 percent.

Apart from the Ambuklao and Binga plants, PSALM has also sold eight Napocor hydropower facilities and two coal-fired generation plants.

Next to be placed on the auction block is the Palinpinon geothermal-Panay diesel plant package, which will be sold on Dec. 5.

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

The Nissan Frontier Navara

SOMEDAY, ALL PICKUPS WILL BE MADE THIS WAY.

It was the middle of this year when Universal Motors Corporation allowed a select few to take a sneak peek at the all-new Nissan Frontier Navara.

Never has the tag "all-new" been more appropriate; and never has the legendary pickup looked so good.

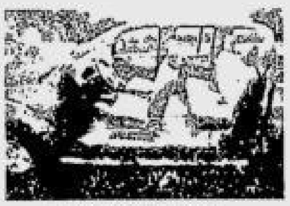
Reworked in a multitude of ways, the Navara is all that ever made the Frontier great. And – as we found out – a hell of a lot more.

BREAKING THE MOLD & RAISING THE BAR.
Call it the Tiger Woods of trucks – for like the celebrated golfer, the Navara is so far ahead of the curve, its arrival on the scene is not just the changing of the guard, it signals a change in the very nature of the game. Indeed, if you think you know all about pickups, think again.

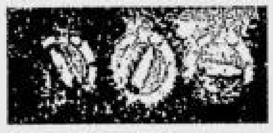
TRUCK OUT BACK, SUV UP FRONT.
For a vehicle meant to do the crude, ugly jobs, the Navara comes with an incredible amount of style and refinement. It is a study in sturdiness and aerodynamics, with flared wheel arches, and crisp, smooth lines.

The new pickup's design theme is a departure from the Frontiers we know. With its integrated overfender and front bumper, imposing grillwork, and hulking stance, the Navara's physique resembles that of its full-sized brother, the Nissan Titan. Sleeker and sexier, it now stands on 16-inch alloy wheels. Front foglamps come standard, as do chrome side mirror housings, and side step tubes.

A front independent suspension with coil springs coupled with longer rear leaf springs provide a smoother ride.

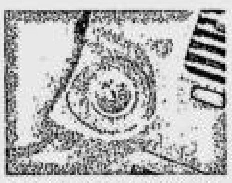


a cabin clad in beige and brushed metal



shift-on-the-fly

Inside, cabin comforts rival those of the best SUVs. The dash is trimmed in handsome beige and a brushed metal-like finish. Seats are clad in beige leather (standard on 4x4 models), and you sit high up in a commanding position, with all controls well within reach. A shift-on-the-fly system allows you to engage 4WD from 2WD with the simple turn of a dial, all without having to stop.



illuminated ignition switch

ladder frame with 8 cross members

Other conveniences abound, like the illuminated ignition switch (no more fumbling in the dark) and the assortment of bins, holders and cubby-holes for everything from maps to water bottles.

It is enough to prompt critics to call the Navara "the closest thing a truck comes to a proper car."

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEING FIRST AND ONLY.
Excellence is part of the Navara's pedigree. The Nissan Frontier is the first and only truck line to hold the Number One spot (based on number of units sold) for four consecutive years.

six-speed manual transmission

The Navara keeps the Frontier tradition of innovation, once again reinventing the pickup and setting a new benchmark with 6 SPEED MANUAL TRANSMISSION. Unheard of in pickups, the new innovation promises enhanced performance and better fuel efficiency.

It doesn't end there. When it comes to firsts, Nissan seems to have pulled out all the stops.

Consider these: THE LARGEST FUEL TANK CAPACITY (80L, perfect for long journeys into the rough) and the first to offer standard BRAKE ASSIST for sure footing during stops. The Frontier is also the only pickup to use a LADDER TYPE FRAME WITH 8 CROSS MEMBERS for added rigidity and strength to handle heavy duty cargo, and to limit body roll.

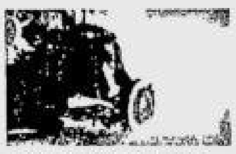
MORE ROOM!
The new Navara is a massive 5,230mm long. Its cockpit area is thus larger, and built to more car-like dimensions, providing a better driving experience and a more comfortable ride for passengers in the rear. Most of the wheelbase increase pushes the rear wheels further backwards, and the payoff is that the Navara has a wider, deeper bed, giving you a larger load area.

MOST POWER!
Hauling all that load is the work of a YD25DDTi 2nd Generation Common Rail Turbo Intercooler Diesel Engine – the most powerful one around – pumping out 174 HORSEPOWER RATING AND 403 Nm OF TORQUE for 4WD, THE MOST IN ITS CLASS. That's more than enough to climb muddy inclines or tow a trailerful of goods. All with minimal emissions and engine vibration.

SAFETY ZONE.
The Navara's construction conforms to Nissan's patented ZONE BODY CONCEPT, with designated crumple zones to absorb the energy of an impact, and a rigid safety zone to shelter occupants from harm.

most powerful engine in its class

The cabin space features 2 SRS FRONT AIRBAGS, side impact beams to guard against broadside crashes, and 3-point front and rear seatbelts. Safeguarding driver control on and off-road, a Limited Slip Differential (standard on 4x4 models) reassigns power to the wheels with greatest traction. ABS prevents wheel lock during sudden stops, and ELECTRONIC BRAKEFORCE DISTRIBUTION balances braking power between the truck's front and rear end – vital help, especially with a fully loaded bed. A 3rd brake lamp provides early warning to following cars.



ABS, Load Sensing Valve & Electronic Brakeforce Distribution

THE NEXT FRONTIER FOR PICKUPS.
There is, perhaps, no pickup out there that packs more innovation per square inch than the new Frontier Navara. This here, is one giant leap for truck kind. And as is always the case with pickups of the Frontier lineage, it won't be long before the rest of truckdom follows suit.

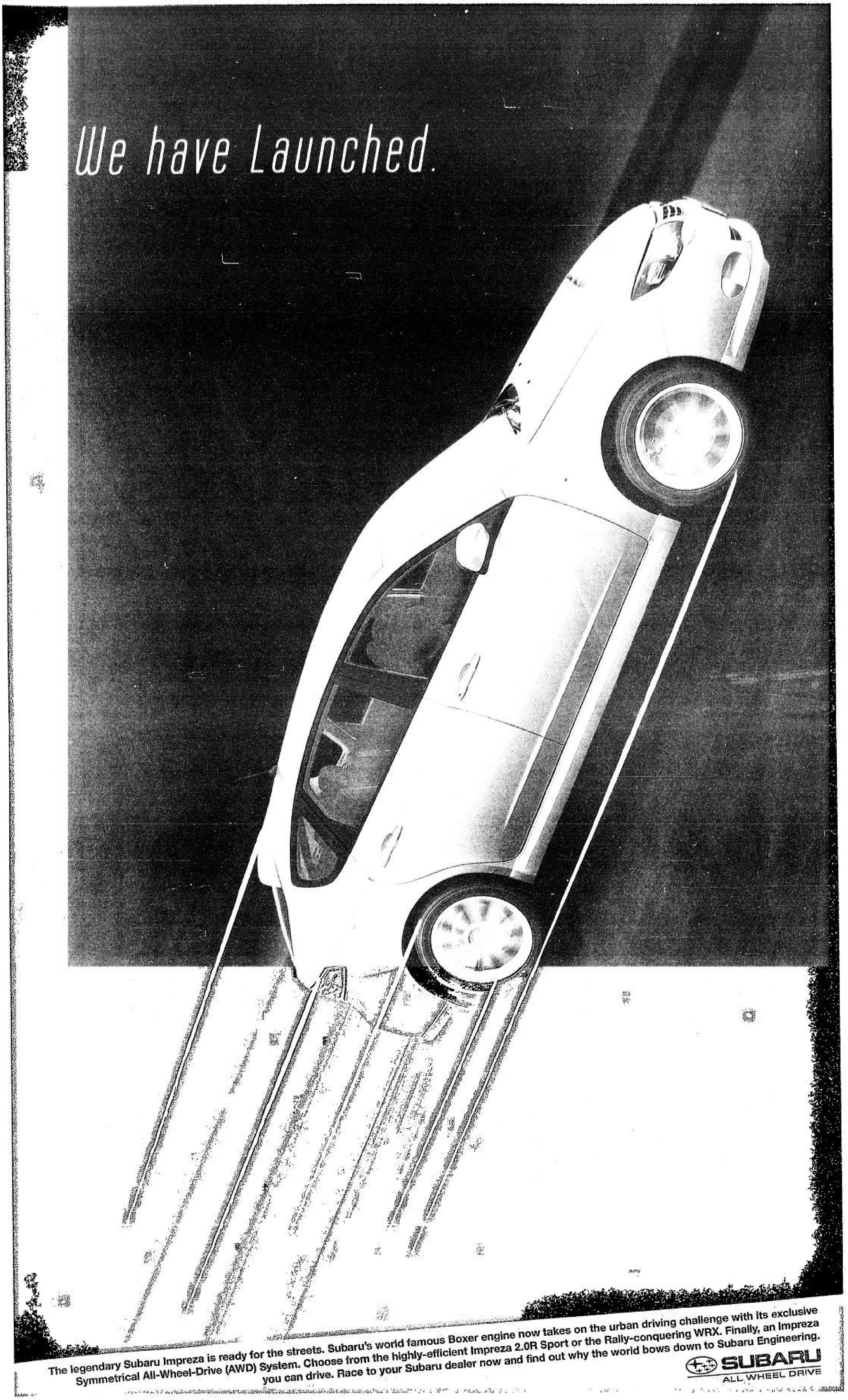
THE RULES REWRITTEN:
Navara's class leading stats

- First with 6 speed MT
- Most Horsepower and Torque at 174 Ps and 403 Nm
- Longer wheelbase for more bed and cabin room
- Unique 8 member ladder frame for more strength
- Largest fuel tank in its class at 80L

Exclusively distributed by Universal Motors Corp. Available in 4x4 and 4x2, with 6-speed M/T or 5-speed A/T.

The Frontier Navara. Arriving December 03, 2007.

Reserve your Navara now.
Text NAVARA + your name, address, contact number and inquiry to 0918-8NISSAN
or visit the Nissan dealer nearest you.



The legendary Subaru Impreza is ready for the streets. Subaru's world famous Boxer engine now takes on the urban driving challenge with its exclusive Symmetrical All-Wheel-Drive (AWD) System. Choose from the highly-efficient Impreza 2.0R Sport or the Rally-conquering WRX. Finally, an Impreza you can drive. Race to your Subaru dealer now and find out why the world bows down to Subaru Engineering.

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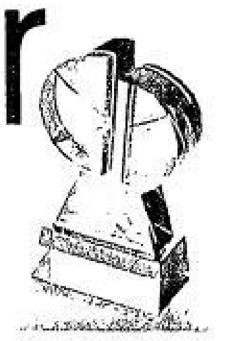
> 'Maybe only because I've been practicing my profession that long,' he quips when asked why he thinks he's accorded the distinct honor

ING FINEX CFO OF THE YEAR AWARD

DELFIN C. GONZALEZ JR.

The 1st CFO of the Year Awardee



By Joel V. Nigos

Displaying his usual serious mien, Delfin C. Gonzalez Jr., the first ING-FINEX CFO of the Year Awardee, says that having won the accolade is undeniably a big honor.

The Globe Telecom chief financial officer joined the company in November 2000. This time in Globe's corporate history is key because this was the period when Globe was still establishing itself as a major player in the industry. Also, the year 2000 marked one of the most tumultuous times in the country's political history. Gonzalez adds that more than he, the credit should be given to his large group of 400 people who make up the finance unit "whose performance reflected my performance."

Humbled by the award being bestowed on him by the country's largest association of finance executives, Gonzalez says, "I hope I can be an inspiration to other people in the finance function who are trying to excel in their own company." He also admits that he's still elated by the prestige despite having a career that has already spanned three decades.

"Maybe only because I've been practicing my profession that long," he quips when asked why he thinks he's accorded the distinct honor.

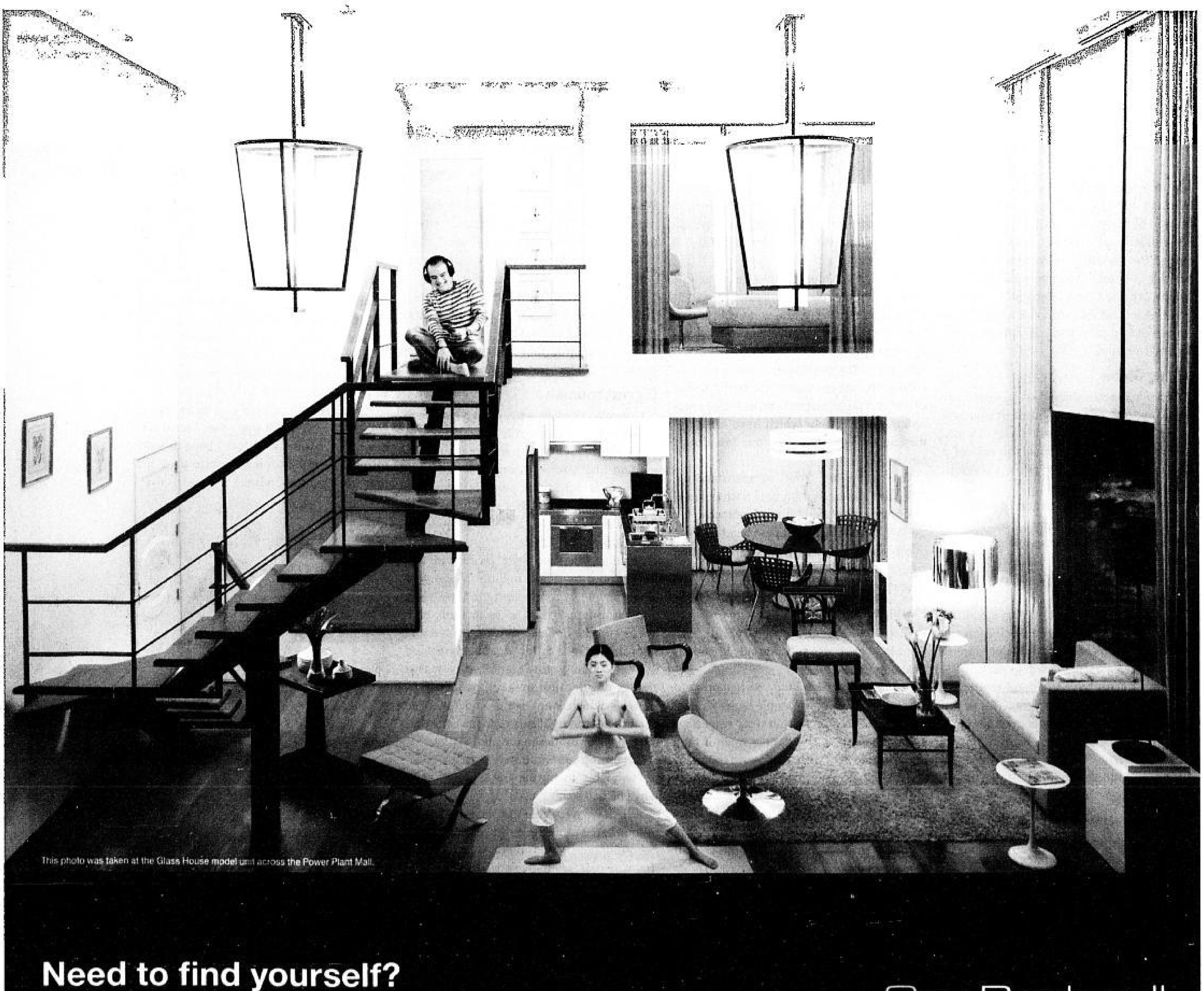
A magna cum laude graduate of De La Salle University with a degree in chemical engineering in 1971, Gonzalez earned his Masters in Business Administration degree from the Harvard Business School in 1975. He also took short program courses such as the "Seminar for Senior Executives" at the International Institute for Management Development in Lausanne, Switzerland, and the "Corporate Strategic Planning Seminar" at Wharton School in Pennsylvania, USA.

24 years with San Miguel

Before moving to Globe, Gonzalez spent 24 years holding various positions with the San Miguel group.

"I was CFO of San Miguel Corp in my last 11 years there. I was looking for a new challenge then. There was a lot of work in San Miguel at

CFO/ B2-2



This photo was taken at the Glass House model unit across the Power Plant Mall.

Need to find yourself?

Find all the space you need at Number One Rockwell. Get your very own Z-loft, Loft or Flat before units run out.

One Rockwell
East and West Towers

Visit The Glass House model unit by the Power Plant Mall or call (632) 793-0088 or 403-0088. www.e-rockwell.com

FINEX, ING seal partnership at Shangri-La cocktails

By Wilma Miranda

July 10 was a stormy evening but it didn't stop members and guests from attending the public launch of FINEX's first-ever Search for the CFO of the Year. It was also a good chance for the members to touch base, this time in a cocktail event. Our GMM is usually a luncheon affair with hardly any chance to talk to fellow members other than those seated at our respective tables.

Cocktails have a way of creating a relaxed atmosphere and affording a chance to chat with many attendees. The ING-FINEX partnership event also created awareness for the significance for the CFO of the Year project, which I believe is long overdue for FINEX. Aside from helping promote the organization, the search can be a way to encourage and remind finance executives that they are not merely cogs in a developing country like ours, but can be a powerful force in pushing for economic and social progress.

During the launch, BSP governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said he welcomed the project as a vehicle to "identify role models who can inspire and motivate financial executives to do better." He noted that the Philippines breeds world-class finance executives who create wealth for their institutions and stakeholders through their vision and leadership in financial management. Tetangco also said the Search for the CFO of the Year can "generate an even wider pool of dynamic, internationally competitive and highly ethical chief financial officers in our country."

ING Bank country manager Manolet Salak quoted Winston Churchill, saying "history is going to be kind to me because I intend to write it." Salak said "tonight we are writing history of sorts as we launch the Search for the CFO of the Year." He expressed hope that the selected person will epitomize the values espoused by FINEX, namely professional excellence, warm fellowship, initiative, leadership, and social involvement.

In response, FINEX president Billy Cortez thanked ING for accepting FINEX's offer to be its major, exclusive partner in the Search for the CFO of the Year. He congratulated the small band of FINEX members and supporters for achieving this milestone event after starting out literally from scratch, armed only with commitment, dedication, enthusiasm, positive attitude, hope and prayers. "One felt astonished at the variety of resources this dedicated group could really come up with when they're focused toward the achievement of a bigger goal," he said.

The CFO's role has evolved significantly from being an organization's "chief bean counter" to that of a visionary leader. An article in cnn.com describes the CFO as a bridge between the world of hard figures and the external world, with many companies, especially the listed ones, in a fishbowl syndrome nowadays; from the industry analysts and prospective investors to a neophyte who trades stocks online—everybody seems to be scrutinizing companies' financial figures.

Former Czech leader and poet Vaclav Havel once said: "Work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed." This worthy project indeed will be a good legacy from the current FINEX administration to the future generation of members. If it's for the good of many, success cannot be far behind. And as they say, it's not always for the money…

A toast to seal the permanent partnership between ING Bank and FINEX in the Search for CFO of the Year! From Left: Bobby de Ocampo, Dave Balangue, Zondy Garcia, Manolet Salak, BSP Governor Say Tetangco, Billy Cortez, Vic dela Dingco, Vic Lim and Mark Yu

The 1st CFO of the Year Awardee

From page B2-1

that time and it's still a fascinating company to be in until now. In 2000, I was impressed by the growth of Globe and the mobile industry as a whole. So when I was tapped for the job, I knew that it was the company I would like to be a part of—both Ayala Corp and Globe Telecom."

He ended his 24-year stint with SMC as executive vice president, chief finance officer and treasurer.

Joining Globe

Gonzalez recalls that when he joined the company, the telecom industry was still young and Globe had only about 2.5 million subscribers adding that the role of a CFO in a fast-moving new industry was critical to its success.

"We needed a large amount of capital in order to grow Globe's capacity and expand its network. The main task was to make sure that the company's liquidity requirement to fund its capital projects is secured," Gonzalez shares.

He remembers that the country's political and economic situation then was chaotic as the call for the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada was beginning to reach its peak.

"Interest rates were high and the dollar capital markets were very tight as far as the Philippine issuers were concerned. We have to source our funds from many different locations including export credit agencies that provide credit facilities to importers of equipment from that country."

Quick turnaround

At present, the Globe network spans over 99 percent of the Philippines and services 19.2 million subscribers, accounting for approximately 45 percent of the industry's total subscriber base.

"The industry has turned around very quickly, even faster than we have anticipated. We're generating large amounts of cash from our operations. From sourcing scarce funds seven years ago, we're now in a situation where we're looking for ways to optimize our capital resources."

But a comfortable footing in the Philippine mobile industry doesn't stop Management from infusing more investment into the network. He says, "Our capital expenditure now is still in the order of $300-400 million annually."

Globe's change of fortunes has in a large way shaped the role of Gonzalez.

"In the first four years, what was important was to grow our revenues to fund our network expansion. Now that we have covered the entire archipelago, we're now focusing on cost management, optimization of our capital infrastructure, as well as providing new services which have huge unmet needs like expanding our broadband network."

The changing role notwithstanding, Gonzalez shares that his zeal hasn't waned since he first stepped into the company.

"We'll continue to compete head-on with other players in the industry—in getting subscribers, in promotions, in providing new services," he reveals.

Management style

Globe and the industry's nature, reveals Gonzalez, have also substantially honed his management style.

"It's collaborative and participative. I would like to give my people leeway, make their own decisions within their respective areas. They know the door is open if they are comfortable with their own point of view," he shares, adding that giving his people that room is very essential since the industry is fast-moving and the competition is fierce.

"I have to allow the troops on the ground to make decisions. If they waited for signals from the top before they can move, I believe that's a source of weakness on our part."

Globe, he describes, is in a very performance-oriented industry. "To be able to excel in the marketplace we have to make sure that each and every part of Globe performs well. Since we deliver a service, the quality of our service depends on so many activities that are integrated. A problem in a unit would instantly create a bigger problem that affects the whole."

He adds, "The review would come later. We would assess how we can make the decisions that were made better which in the process would help our people learn."

He says that the Ayalas are very supportive.

"They don't tell us what to do but they make suggestions, probe our plans and they think long-term. They also tend to be socially involved, that there should be a public service face in the business."

Biggest triumph

Gonzalez considers his early years with Globe as his greatest challenge.

"The telecom industry was totally new to me and I have to learn this new high-tech business as quickly as possible," confides Gonzalez who admits that even up to today he continues to be in a learning mode on the business.

"At that time, we were faced with the need to borrow P500 million in one year when people were marching in the streets and the interest rates were in their high 'teens and the dollar interest rates were in high single digits or low double digits, and the peso sliding quite significantly. It was challenging because we have to make decisions as which loans we would take. We need to get the right mix of loans considering the uncertainties in the market."

Circumstances would tell us that Gonzalez was able to hurdle the greatest challenge he had so far faced.

"When we were able to open up the capital markets at rates even lower than what the Philippine government was offering, that was professionally satisfying," he tells of his biggest triumph. "We actually raised dollar bonds in the market at 9.7 percent when the comparable Philippine rate was at closer to 10 percent. It required marketing the company; what we're really looking for in a sense were investors. We were pleased with the outcome because, considering the uncertainties, we were able to generate business from the bonds Globe was offering."

Flexible and adaptable

Gonzalez, who has eight children with wife, the former Nannie Itchon, also expounds on his philosophy.

"I believe in flexibility and adaptability. In finance you have to be flexible and adaptable in changing circumstances, changing market conditions and political situations. In my own personal case, I'm also very flexible—moving from a very traditional company like San Miguel to a high-tech, fast-moving firm like Globe."

He adds that he should also be a supportive mentor. "The first thing that I need is to have good people with me. I have to work through people training them to their full potential," he concludes.

ING FINEX CFO OF THE YEAR AWARD

CFO OF THE YEAR SEARCH AND SELECTION COMMITTEE
(From left) Erdulfo S. Sison, Business Assistance Credit Corporation President/CEO; Committee Chair David L. Balangue, SGV & Co. Chairman & Managing Partner; Florencia G. Tarriela, Philippine National Bank Chairman; Edwin B. Villanueva, VFL Advisors, Inc. Chairman; Alfredo B. Parungao, Ligaya Management Corporation President. Not in photo: Ma. Gracia F. Casals-Diaz, Security and Exchange Commission Assistant Director, Office of the General Accountant; Sonny B. Coloma Jr., Asian Institute of Management Professor; Jaime Y. Ladao, Dun & Bradstreet Philippines, Inc. President; Tomasa H. Lipana, Isla Lipana & Co. / PricewaterhouseCoopers Chairman & Senior Partner.

ING

Manuel Salak III
Country Manager, ING Bank

FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (FINEX)
the country's foremost finance organization

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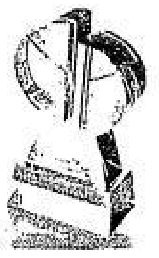
Manuel Salak III
Country Manager
ING Bank N.V



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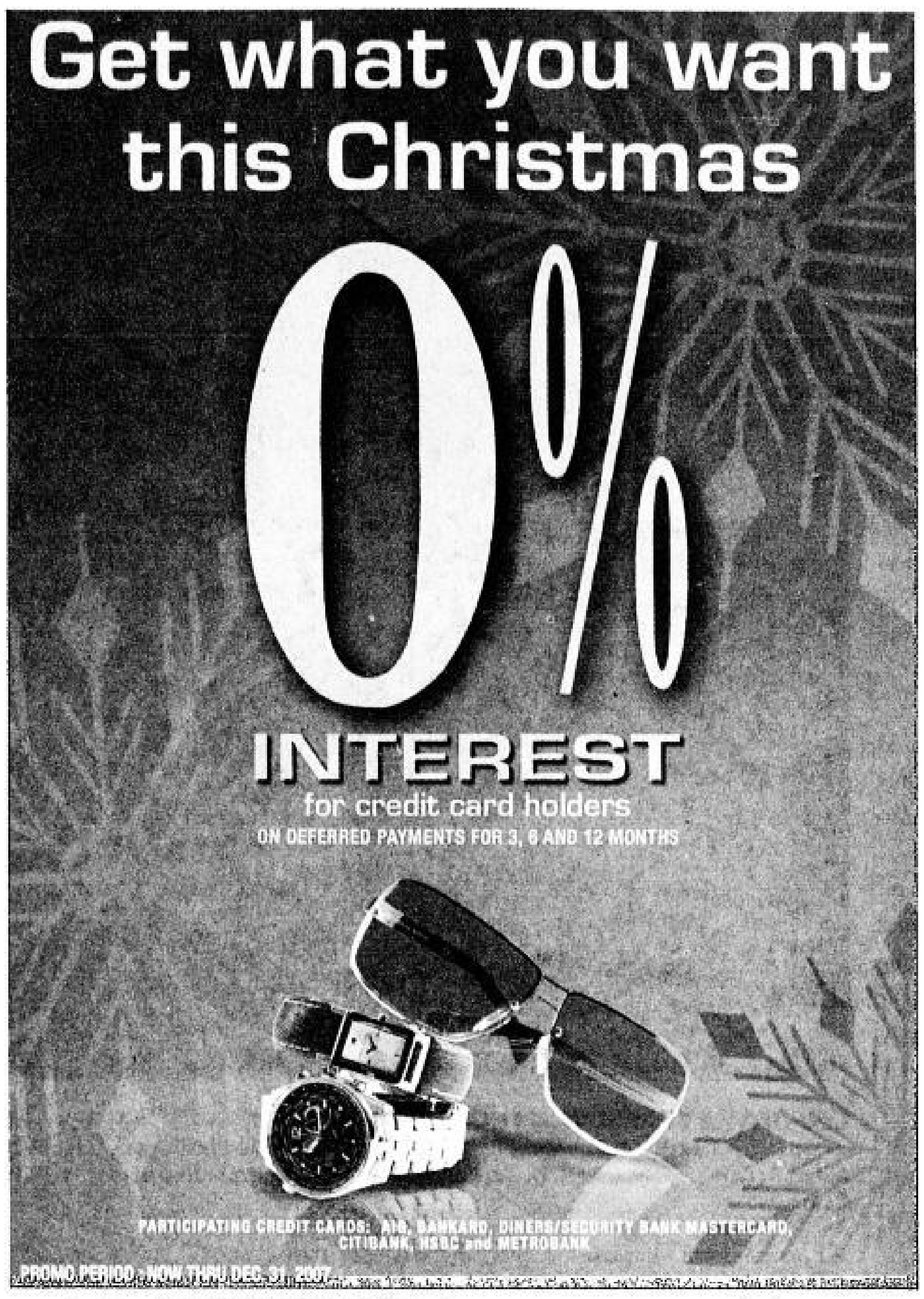

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The recounting of a Genesis

ING FINEX CFO OF THE YEAR AWARD

By David Balangue
Chairman, FINEX Foundation

As early as December 2005, the germ of an idea toward conducting a Search for Outstanding CFO began when I chose to focus on the profile and persona of the CFO during a Round Table discussion of the XXXVI IAFEI World Congress at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

I remember depicting today's CFO to one who is no longer bottom-line obsessed, nerdy and boring "bean counters," but are exciting company visionaries.

Globalization, the IT revolution, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the dotcom bubble and other Y2K-spawned "phenomena" have streamlined the CFO classic model of the 1990s.

Before the dawning of the new millennium, the CFO operated as a business silo and focused narrowly on the company's financial statements and capital structure. It was typically an accounting role, maybe expanded to tax and treasury.

However, when one takes a look at a CFO's responsibilities post-Y2K, there is an exciting and widely encompassing mix of operations planning and analysis, information technology, strategic planning, M&A, business and growth strategy, shareholder value creation, capital market knowledge, risk management, corporate governance, and stakeholder relations.

And of course, the post-millennium CFO must also know how to play golf and "balut," the popular Philippine version of backgammon.

Coincidentally, five months after the Congress, in April 2006, the IAFEI disseminated to FINEX the Global CFO Study Questionnaire, giving the inputs to the Philippine CFO Study, which comes at the heels of The German CFO Study: The Rise, Evolution and Future Path of the German CFO.

Serendipity will have it that these two major studies, in particular the skills, ethics and norms developed, will serve as the fundamentals to be observed in the ING-FINEX CFO of the Year Search.

Right about this time, the idea of forging ahead with a CFO Search under the aegis of FINEX, being the country's foremost association of financial services professionals, practitioners, and decision makers, was unofficially discussed around the Board members.

The brilliant idea of undertaking a Search for outstanding CFO was voiced, and first proposed, by Vic dela Dingco, who is also involved in large measure with Junior FINEX. Quickly, I seized the opportunity of appointing Vic as Director in charge of the effort, to which the Directors unanimously agreed. I was very happy to see that Vic saw the value of such a Search, to FINEX; to the profession; and to the country.

Sadly, the Philippines is still a net exporter of talent, and the Board endorses the legitimacy of keeping Filipino talent onshore and preserving our pool of local talent. Let's export the services but not the warm bodies. Let's give the recognition at home.

CFO OF THE YEAR AWARD COMMITTEE
(From left) Adoracion A. Cabrera, Ma. Teresa M. Jesudason, David Balangue, Overall Committee Chair and Liaison Director Victor P. Dela Dingco, Joseph Albert A. Gamboa, Rosanna R. Quito, Puri W. Gonzalez. Not in photo: Ma. Mignon W. Ramos, Arthur Chung, Ma. Asuncion V. Mercado, Janine Sugay, Andrew Caw.

In October 2006, as part of my duties as then FINEX President, I was interviewed on the FINEX Week at the ANC Business Channel, and again I saw the opportunity to briefly introduce the CFO Search. A soft opening was made thereafter at the New World Hotel to coincide with the ongoing FINEX Week activities.

In June 2006, we started to write up on the concept of the Search. We even designed the forms to be used in all stages of the Search, to faithfully document the process in the spirit of full transparency. As well, under the leadership of Vic, we met on Nov. 7, 2006 to organize formally the Search. We're committed.

At 6 p.m. of this special November day, we developed the organization structure for the Search. We identified four institutional co-presenters to undertake the Search with FINEX. These are: (a) FINEX Foundation; (b) International Association of Financial Executives (IAFEI) based in Vienna, Austria; (c) Asian Institute of Management-Gov. Jose B. Fernandez Jr. Centre for Banking & Finance; and (d) CFA Institute.

In addition to the Concept Paper on the Search, we also developed a Communications Plan, which was anchored on MOUs with Media Partners: (a) BusinessWorld; (b) Philippine Daily Inquirer; and (c) Philippine Star.

It was like giving birth—a genesis. One of the birthing pains took the form of finding the right institutional sponsor to undertake the Search with FINEX. Choosing the institution was like choosing a mate for life. We wanted to have an institutional partner that is, or connected with, a major financial institution; preferably known regionally, if not globally; would appreciate the benefits of the Search to the profession, its business, and to FINEX; and would have the same passion for the Search as FINEX.

The initial forays into finding a partner—mirroring life—were not fruitful. The institutions we were talking with did not share our long-term view on the Search. We wanted the Search to be an institution unto itself, a birthright to meritorious and deserving heirs. We wanted the Search to be a legacy of excellence, a natural progression from our Junior FINEX program—ensuring tomorrow's leaders in finance today—and keeping the brain coffers brimming as well as ensuring the profession's leadership succession intact.

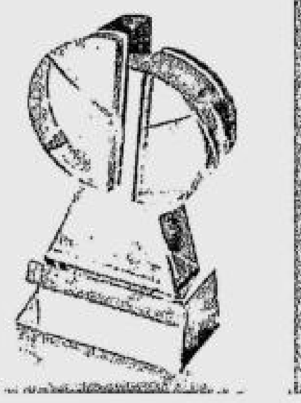
It was a very auspicious and promising augury of future events when ING Bank N.V. (Manila Branch) agreed to partner with FINEX in conducting the CFO of the Year Search. A partnership "meant to be," both institutions-ING and FINEX-agreed to sponsor the Search not only in 2007, but in succeeding years thereafter. The word "perpetual" is mentioned in the same breath, suggesting a union of two non-competing, financial institutions, that is alive and focused on the benefits such a senior Search will bring to the country and to Philippine CFOs.

After an agreement on the Terms of Reference of the partnership, the two institutions sealed the union with a MOA signed on July 10, 2007.

A formal Monograph on the permanent joint partnership in the Search was written to chronicle the concept; rationale and qualities for the Award; entry, nomination and selection criteria and methodology; timetable; organization; forms manual; and the "evergreen" Award embodying transparency and order by Master Artist Ramon Orlina. A copy of the Monograph was likewise presented to BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. during a courtesy call at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. As well, we were gratified to have Governor Tetangco himself as the Guest of Honor at the cocktail reception celebrating the MOA signing of ING and FINEX to jointly undertake the CFO of the Year Search.

The period for accepting nominations officially ended on noon of Saturday, Sept. 15, 2007. Screening and evaluation by the Search Committee immediately commenced on Monday, Sept. 17. The VIP Reception and CFO of the Year Awards Night will take place today, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2007 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Ten Commandments for Successful CFOs



1. A sound ethical compass. If the CFO's values are undemanding, the company's will also be wobbly.

2. The ability to take unpleasant decisions. Many judgments must be made on the basis of ambiguous information. CFOs often have to deal swiftly with conflicting demands, often without being sure of all the facts.

3. Clarity and focus are essential requirements for making those awkward judgments. Leading a large company, and dealing at speed with a host of complicated and many-sided issues is an immense intellectual challenge.

4. Ambition. The best CFOs are empire-builders who want to create something that outlasts them.

5. Effective communication skills is the result of the increasing intrusion of the outside world into the boardroom: media, analysts, shareholders.

6. The ability to judge people is an essential prerequisite, given the importance of human capital.

7. A knack for developing talent is needed to build a stock of future leaders. People learn far more about the art of leading from a good mentor than from a great book.

8. Emotional self-confidence. Accumulating a pool of talent requires an ability to work with people who may be better at their job than you are at yours, and to guide and motivate them. CFOs who are jealous of their followers do not inspire loyalty.

9. Adaptability will prove invaluable when things go wrong. Surviving a reversal calls for resilience and flexibility.

10. Charm is not a quality taught on MBA courses, but few get to the top without it. A bit of luck helps too.

Source: Monograph on the Permanent Joint Partnership of ING and FINEX in the Search for CFO of the Year

Q&A:

The whys and wherefores of the CFO Award

By Victor P. dela Dingco, VP-External Affairs, Overall Chair & Liaison Director, CFO Awards Committee

What is the ING-FINEX CFO of the Year Award?

The ING-FINEX CFO of the Year Award is the evergreen partnership between ING Bank N.V. (Manila Branch), an acknowledged world leader in banking, insurance and investment management services, and FINEX, the prime professional organization for finance and financial services executives in Philippine business, government, academe, and professional services, to undertake the Search and Award of the industry's CFO of the Year.

The following serve as Co-Presenters—FINEX Foundation, IAFEI, AIM-Gov. Jose B. Fernandez Jr., and CFA Society of the Philippines.

What is the importance of the ING-FINEX CFO of the Year Award?

The Award is made more momentous as it is an award rendered by one's peers in the industry. FINEX counts among its members the country's top CFOs. In addition, the criteria for selection are fundamentally based on the IAFEI CFO Study (German and Philippine editions), in particular the skills, ethics, and standards required of a world-class CFO. Further, the Sponsors and Co-Presenters aim that the Search be perpetuated as a legacy to future generations of financial services leaders.

Who are eligible to be nominated to the ING-FINEX CFO of the Year Search?

The Search is open to all companies, local or foreign owned, privately held or publicly listed, operating in the Philippines and registered under the laws of the country. FINEX members in good standing are eligible to submit nominations. However, relevant officer(s) and/or Directors of the Sponsors and the Co-Presenters are not eligible to join the Search.

How do you define a CFO? What are the principal selection criteria?

The CFO (Chief Finance Officer) is the key officer responsible for steering a highly integrated, effective and efficient Finance Control Unit that provides the Company quality services in 1) financial information management, 2) business planning and analysis 3) accounting, 4) cash management (treasury), 5) regulatory compliance and 6) internal control procedures aimed at contributing to the achievement of the Company's strategic objectives. He/she reports directly to the President/CEO.

The principal selection criteria are based on the values of integrity, leadership, effective stewardship based on the highest standards of business and professional ethics, and specific instances of wealth creation in finance and financial services that are noteworthy of recognition by his/her peers.

Briefly, please describe the nomination process to be eligible to enter the Search.

Nomination shall be by way of a letter signed by a FINEX member in good standing, under his company letterhead. The Nomination shall be accompanied by an updated (latest) version of the curriculum vitae of the Nominee, including references who can provide information or clarification on the Nominee to the Search Committee and/or the Board of Judges. The Key References Confirmation Letter, which accompanies the Nomination Form, supports the nomination from two of unrelated key parties to the Nominee, at least one of whom is a responsible officer, of department head status or above. The unrelated key parties may be one or two of the following: CEO, COO, Chairman of the Board, Lead Banker, Primary Attorney, Primary Financial Advisor, ,Key Supplier, Company IT Soft/Hard Ware provider, BSP representative department head level or above, President of Non-profit Civic or Professional Organization of which Nominee is member, Parish Priest, or Dean of Last School Attended.

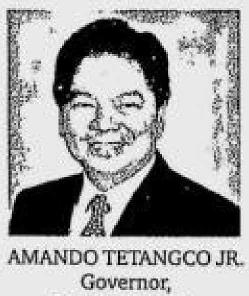
Are there other CFO Searches in the Philippines or in the region?

The ING-FINEX CFO of the Year Award is the first formal recognition of outstanding Chief Finance Officers in the country. In the Asian region, CFO Awards have traditionally been conferred by business publications particularly geared to financial services, corporate finance, and the region's capital markets. Aside from trade publications and industry journals, Asian conglomerates also launch similar searches within the confines of their group's subsidiaries.

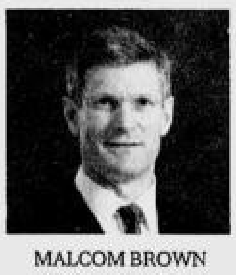
ING FINEX
CFO
OF THE YEAR
AWARD

1st CFO of the Year Award
VIP Night - Nov. 29, 2007
Makati Shangri-La Hotel

Guests of Honor



AMANDO TETANGCO JR.
Governor,
Bangko Sentral
ng Pilipinas



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Host

Rico Hizon
Business News Anchor
BBC World News

Rico Hizon, the 2006 TOYM (The Outstanding Young Men) Awardee for International Journalism and Community Service, is the main anchor of the daily business and finance program Asia Business Report and anchors one edition of World Business Report live from Singapore every weekday mornings. Rico also reports on the latest business and financial issues impacting the region. His latest reports have taken him to Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines.

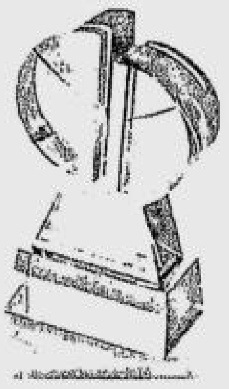
Work of art made by hand - Ramon Orlina

If art is innovation, then Ramon Orlina is an artist par excellence. For the last three decades, Orlina has been transfiguring glass into art. He was the first to carve figures out of blocks of glass using the cold method, cutting, grinding, and polishing his work with improvised tools and instruments—a feat at that time yet unreplicated even in highly industrialized countries.

That he was self-taught, with hardly any predecessor, mentor, or influence to emulate, makes his achievement all the more outstanding. Orlina's reputation extends to art circles and patrons in Asia, Europe and the United States.

Among his art awards is a special prize he won called "Mr. F Prize" in the 1999 Toyamura International Sculpture Biennale, Japan. Subsequently in 2000, he won the First Prize in the Sculpture Category of the II International Biennale of Basketball in the Fine Arts, Madrid, Spain.

His masterpieces place him, in international appraisals of the art, among the gurus Dale Chihuly of the United States and Bertil Vallien of Sweden. He has been conferred two prestigious ASEAN Awards in the field of Visual Arts and recently he was bestowed The Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Award for having led a life of excellence in the field of Arts and having contributed immensely to public welfare and national development.



In 2000, he won the First Prize in the Sculpture Category of the II International Biennale of Basketball in the Fine Arts, Madrid, Spain

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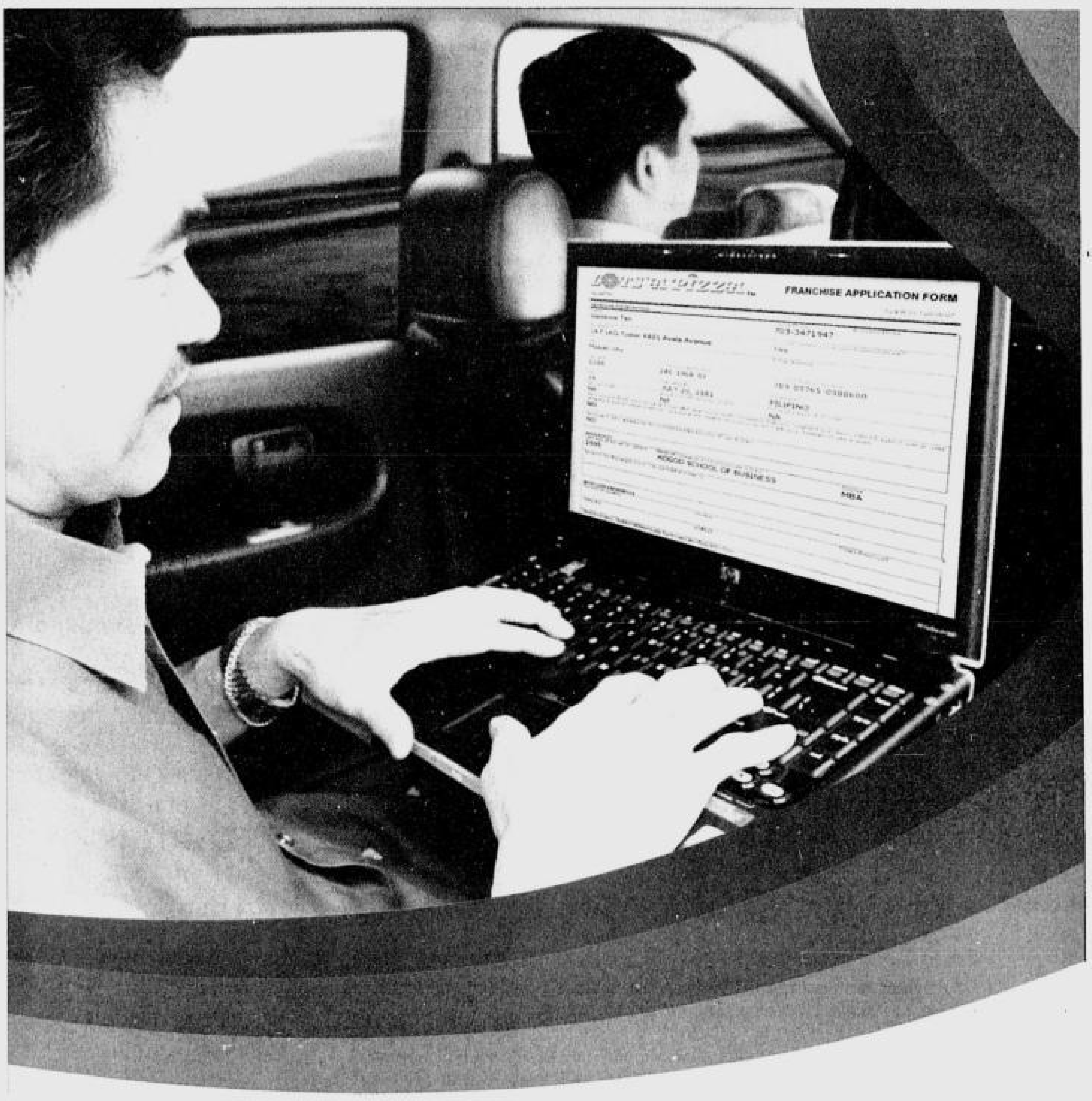

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PHP58.5 billion

Sale of a 60% stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp.

Joint Financial Advisor

Philippines Nov 2007

Ayala Corporation

PHP6 billion

5-year Fixed Rate Bond

Joint Bookrunner and Underwriter

Philippines Nov 2007

Aboitiz Power Corporation

US$92 million

Acquisition of a 34% stake in STEAG State Power Inc.

Financial Advisor

Philippines Nov 2007

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company

PHP8.5 billion

10-year Non-Call 5 Lower Tier 2 Debt

Joint Bookrunner and Lead Manager

Philippines Oct 2007

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation

PHP2.7 billion
Exchange Offer for Central CATV Debt
Sole Lead Coordinator

PHP800 million
Term Facility
Mandated Arranger

Philippines Sep 2007

SM Investments Corporation

PHP4.5 billion

Redeemable Preferred Shares

Joint Issue Manager and Bookrunner

Philippines Aug 2007

Vista Land & Lifescapes, Inc.

US$535 million

Additional Public Offering

Domestic Co-Lead Underwriter

Philippines Jul 2007

Tokyo Crimson Energy

US$3.574 billion
Mirant Phils Acquisition
Joint Financial Advisor

US$2.7 billion
JBIC / EPRG Facilities
Joint Mandated Lead Arranger / Joint Swap Provider

Philippines Jun 2007

Equitable PCI Bank

US$1.9 billion

Merger with Banco de Oro Universal Bank

Financial Advisor

Philippines Jun 2007

Alliance Global Group, Inc.

US$445 million

Additional Public Offering

Domestic Sub-Underwriter

Philippines Jun 2007

Manila Water Company, Inc.

EUR60 million

European Investment Bank Facility

Sole Mandated Lead Arranger

Philippines Jun 2007

SM Prime Holdings

US$150 million

Syndicated Term Loan Facility

Joint Mandated Lead Arranger & Bookrunner

Philippines May 2007

Digitel Mobile Philippines, Inc.

US$33 million

Sinosure-covered Facilities

Sole Arranger & Lender

Philippines May 2007

First Philippine Holdings Corp.

PHP5.0 billion

5, 7, and 10-year Fixed Rate Corporate Notes

Sole Bookrunner & Lead Manager

Philippines Apr 2007

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation

US$86 million

Refinancing Facility

Joint Mandated Lead Arranger

Philippines Mar 2007

Petron Corporation

US$90 million

5-year Syndicated Term Loan

Joint Mandated Lead Arranger

Philippines Mar 2007

Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation

US$101 million

Additional Public Offering

Domestic Co-Lead Underwriter

Philippines Mar 2007

Rustan Commercial Corporation

PHP730 million

Placing of 4.99% Interest in Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation

Sole Placing Agent

Philippines Jan 2007

Golden Star Dragon Equities, Inc.

PHP19 billion

Acquisition of PNB's Non-Performing Assets

Financial Advisor

Philippines Dec 2006

Rustan Commercial Corporation

Price not disclosed

Integration of Rustan Supermarkets into Rustan Supercenters

Financial Advisor

Philippines Nov 2006

Manila North Tollways Corporation

PHP5.5 billion

7-year Fixed Rate Corporate Notes

Joint Lead Bookrunner & Lead Manager

Philippines Nov 2006

In Investment Management and Private Banking

Investment Management Achievements

- # 1 Foreign Bank in the Philippine Trust Banking industry*
- ING Peso Bond Fund, ING Philippine Dollar Bond Fund and ING Philippine Equity Fund are ranked Lipper Leaders for Consistent Returns and Total Returns over a 1-year period as of October 31, 2007.**

* *Based on Published Banks' Statement of Condition submitted to the BSP, June 2007*

** *Lipper is an active research provider on more than 140,000 funds in the Asia-Pacific, Western European and US Markets.*

Lipper Leaders are funds ranked in the top 20% of each Lipper peer group classification. The Lipper ratings are subject to change every month and are based on equal-weighted average of percentile ranks for the Consistent Returns and Total Returns metrics.

Private Banking Achievements*

- # 1 in Quality of Advice for assets under management greater than USD 25,000,000
- ING Private Banking was ranked in the Top 5 in 31 out of a total possible 36 categories for its regional private banking services.

* *Based on the results of the Asiamoney 2007 private banking survey. Respondents comprised high net worth individuals from across Asia; results were tabulated based on the location of each respondent's main private bank.*

The results are for ING Private Banking's regional headquarters in Singapore.

2007 has, once again, been another banner year for ING. The past year has seen landmark deals that have helped our clients manage their financial futures. Through our extensive industry insights and ability to deliver integrated financial solutions, we've created winning partnerships, based on repeated success, in our core sectors. We believe consistent performance secures recurring business. Whether in corporate finance, equities or fixed income deals. Whether in asset management or private banking. We invest in partners and relationships. And they do the same with us.

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LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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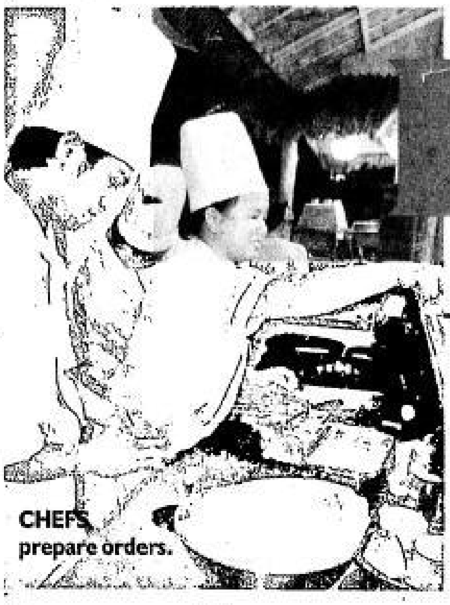
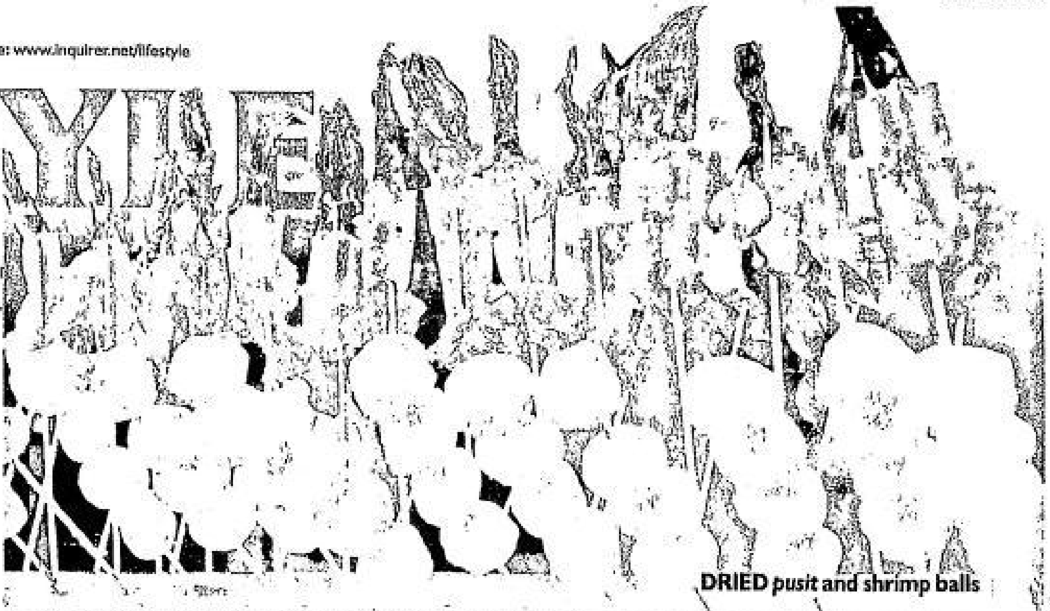


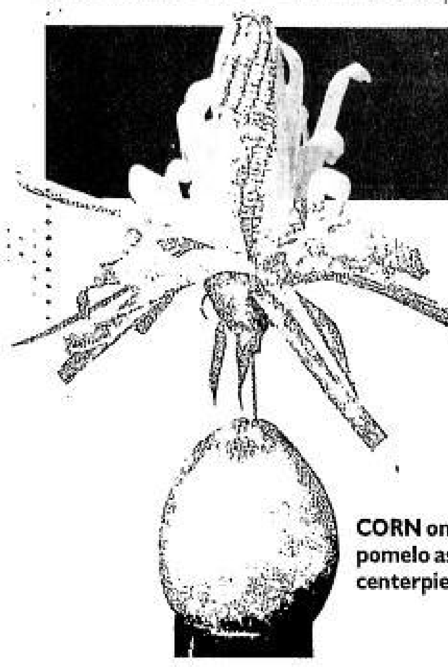
CHEFS prepare orders.

Cerqueda says the new Intercon feature gives guests a glimpse of the local culture even if they stay for only one night



DRIED *pusit* and shrimp balls

Five-star *street* food



CORN on pomelo as centerpiece

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Rudy Esperas

FILIPINO STREET FOOD HAS moved up in the world.

The Intercontinental Manila has brought delicacies like *balut, penoy, taho*, fishball, squid ball and *inihaw na pusit*, to name just a few, from back streets and alleys inside its posh interiors.

At the hotel's poolside, known as Sol y Sombra (Spanish for sun and shadow), people can have the Pinoy favorites as *merienda*, cocktails finger food, *pulutan, chichirya*, a full meal and anyway they want them.

And, instead of being dished out by a motley crew of cooks, the *melon palamig, camote* cue, *turon* and all other items are being prepared by a cook or cooks in full regalia, toque and all.

Started only a few weeks ago, director of food and beverage Marc Cerqueda says the street food will become a regular feature of the poolside. With thatch-roof bamboo huts, tables and benches, the poolside has been turned into a little tropical spot.

Normally empty by 7 p.m., it now continues to hum until closing time at 10:30 p.m. and provides the ideal complement to the adjacent fine-dining place Gambrinus.

People can either have pre-dinner drinks and finger food, a nightcap or just chill and enjoy the relaxing ambience created by the water and the lush greenery.

"We wanted to recreate a traditional Filipino street scene with food in a hotel setting," Cerqueda says.

He points out that for many of the hotel's guests, businessmen who are on such tight schedules rarely have the time to see even a little of their host city, the street food offering is one opportunity for them to experience a little of Philippine culture and tradition.

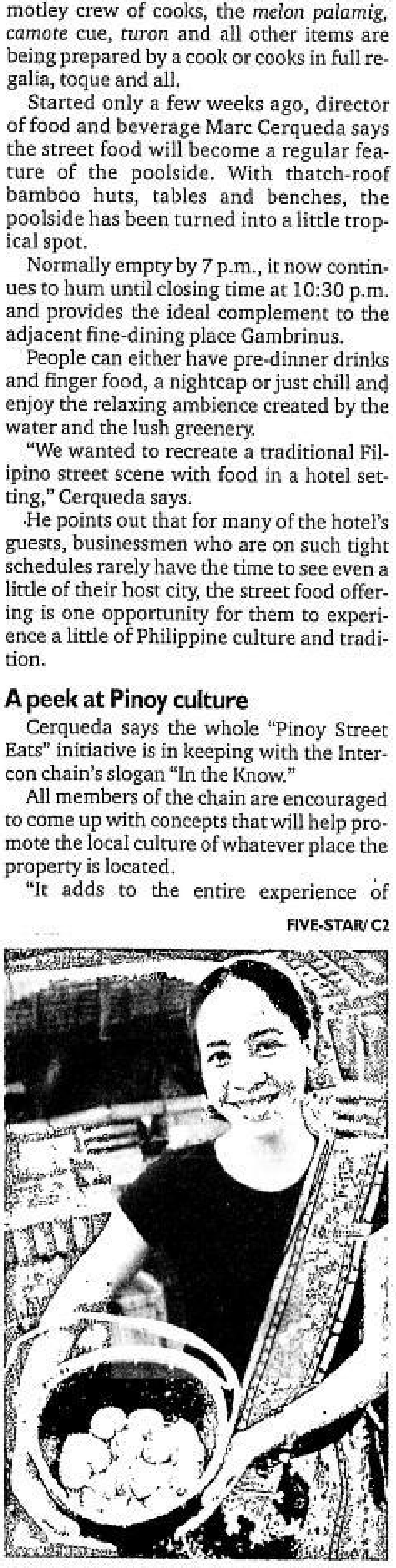
A peek at Pinoy culture

Cerqueda says the whole "Pinoy Street Eats" initiative is in keeping with the Intercon chain's slogan "In the Know."

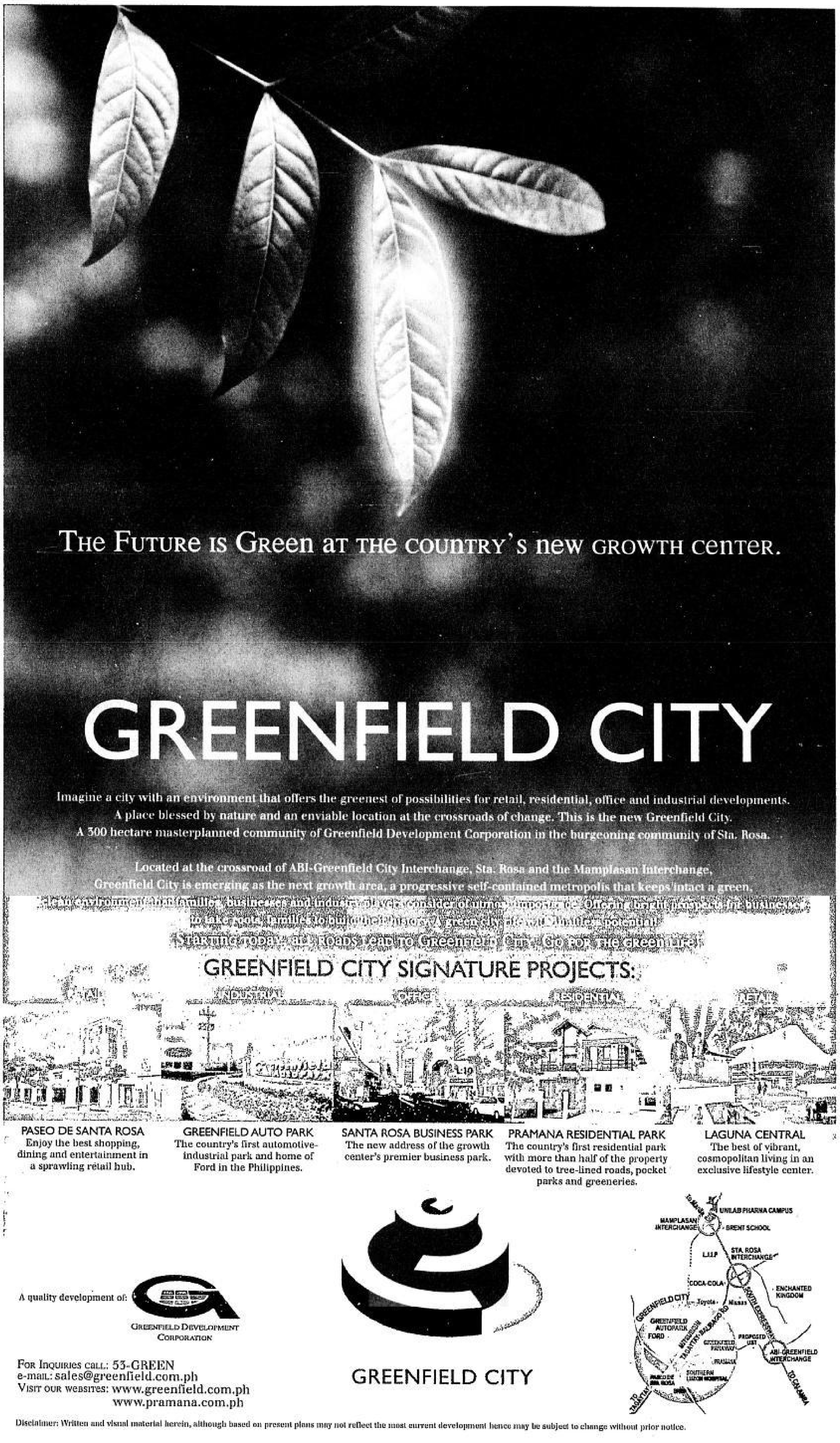
All members of the chain are encouraged to come up with concepts that will help promote the local culture of whatever place the property is located.

"It adds to the entire experience of

FIVE-STAR/ C2



A *BALUT* "vendor" you will not see on the street



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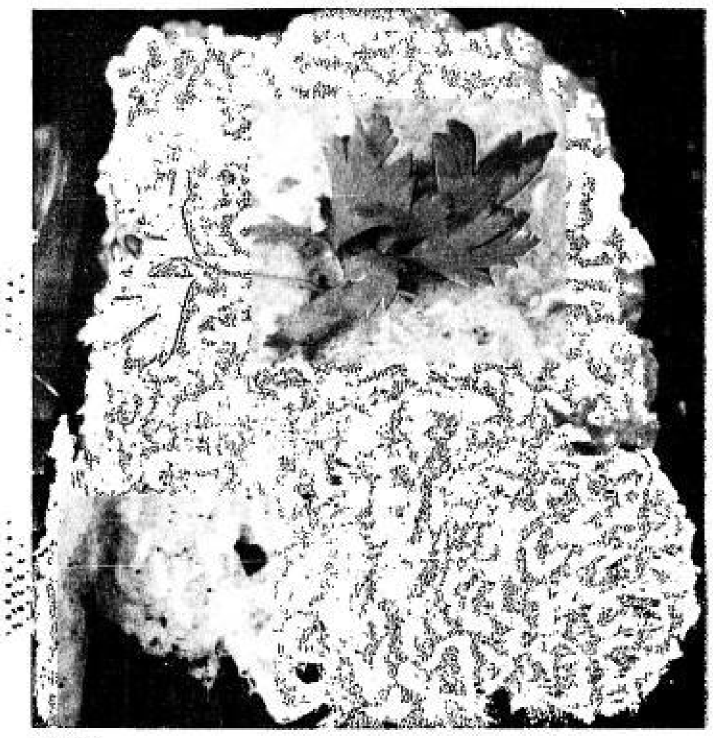

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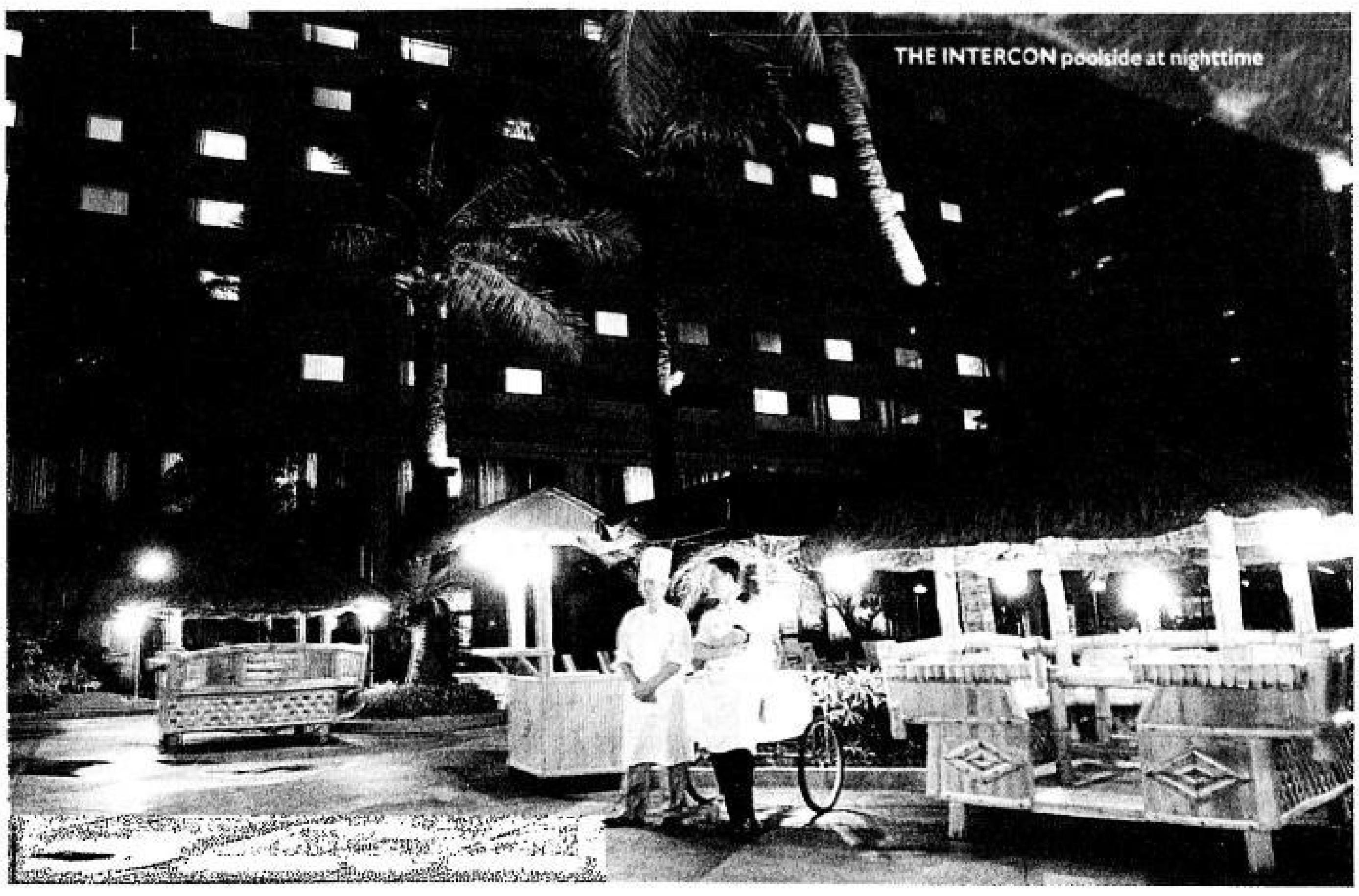
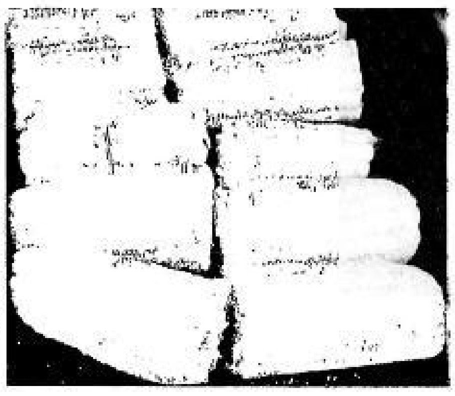


THE INTERCON poolside at nighttime



***NILAGANG** mais*

MARC Cerqueda, food and beverage manager

Five-star street food

From page C1

guests. Even if they stay for only one night, [a visit to Sol y Sombra] will give them a glimpse of the local culture," he says.

He notes that the safe confines of the Intercon even seem to embolden guests to face the challenge of eating *balut*.

Cerqueda expects the menu of Pinoy street foods to change, with new items being added, including those from other regions.

Other attractions may also be added later like a guitarist who will do the traditional *harana* or a group of musicians playing folk music.

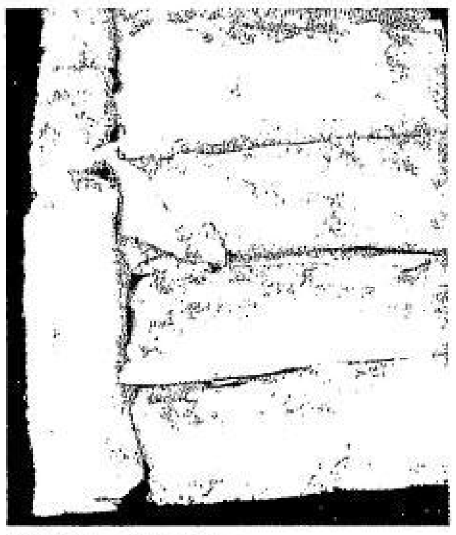
"The possibilities are endless," Cerqueda says. He thinks they may be starting a little Nayong Pilipino. "We are the only hotel in Makati with this kind of space," he says, waving a hand toward the sprawling garden and swimming pool.

But diners in the know should not yet go looking for "*adidas*" (chicken feet); IUD (*isaw* or intestine); *kwek-kwek* (quail egg) and *toknene* (chicken egg). Cerqueda has not even heard of them yet.

Cecille Teodoro, assistant F&B director who is credited with coming up with the idea for Pinoy eats, says the delicacies they are featuring are what Filipino staff members and other people consider the most popular.

Chef Rolando Macatangay, who oversees the whole project, says coming up with the recipes was no problem as the Filipino kitchen crew knew the items quite well.

Almost everything on the street food list is made by the hotel, including the "dirty" ice cream in traditional flavors Filipinos love.

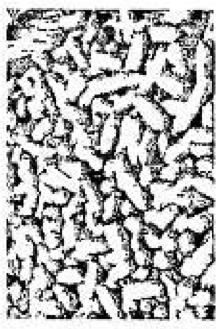


***LUMPIA** ready for frying*

At Intercon's Pinoy Street Eats, it is eat-all-you-can for P650 per person. Teodoro says the food is available for take-out at per piece rates.

Diners can wash down their *tokwa't baboy* or *ukoy* with *lambanog* concoctions by the hotel's bartender.

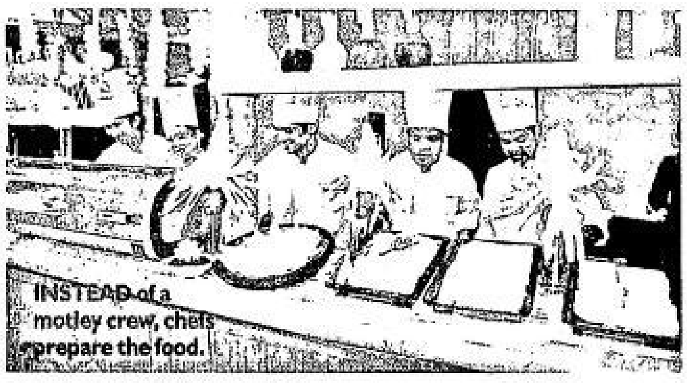
The mixes have been given such names as Maganda (the Pinoy version of Margarita); Mabait (*lambanog*, corn and grenadine); *Malambing* (*lambanog*, *guyabano* and mango); Malakas (*lambanog*, cucumber, calamansi and gin); and Makisig (*lambanog*, gin and *guyabano*).



***NILAGANG** mani*

KROPECK

THINLY sliced green mangoes do not look like what you see being peddled.



INSTEAD of a motley crew, chefs prepare the food.

BULALO

Soup lover's haven

COMFORT FOOD FOR MOST Pinoys means soup. This is probably why Sabaw! Sabaw! is such a big hit.

Opened just two months ago by entrepreneurs and married couple Louie Abad and Girlie Cosio-Abad, with business partner Caren Diaz, Sabaw! Sabaw! was literally born from the couple's own kitchen.

A fantastic cook due to her on-the-job training cooking for her husband and children for the last 21 years, Girlie took all her bestsellers (at home) and made these available in Sabaw! Sabaw!

But before opening the restaurant, the couple also did their homework. They researched by traveling to all parts of the country and discovered the different tastes of *nilagang baka* and other specialty dishes.

In Batangas, the *nilaga* is sweet while further north, it is salty. Cebu, on the other hand, has *pochero* as their simple *nilaga*. In the basic Tagalog *nilaga* one can savor the taste of the beef. In Iloilo, their most famous soup is *molo* while in Pampanga it is *kare-kare*.

Tagaytay diners often pair their *nilagang baka* with crispy *tawilis*, a small freshwater sardine.

Girlie's personal taste for *nilaga* is very basic, leaning toward the Tagalog *nilaga* and does not need dip since it is delicious by itself.

On her menu are Sinigang na Salmon sa Miso, Sinigang na Tiyan ng Salmon, Nilagang Bulalo't Laman, Nilagang Litid, Molo and Papaitan. Girlie opts to use salmon in her *sinigang* because it has a sweet taste and is less fishy.

To add some variety to the selection, the Silog! Silog! are also available which includes Tapsilog, Longsilog, Tosilog, Tawilis, Corned Beef and Adobo.

ADOBO

Although a very new addition to the menu, the Kare-Kare is fast becoming the bestseller.

Sabaw! Sabaw! soup dishes can usually be shared by two persons. But perhaps one of the most important factors that keep clients coming back is simply the culture at Sabaw! Sabaw! which Girlie says was inherited from their other restaurant, Hot Rocks.

"Our servers make the diners feel at home. It's not just about providing friendly service, it's about giving them warmth."

Sabaw! Sabaw! is at Doña Julia Vargas cor. Meralco Avenue, Ortigas, Pasig. Call 4890798.

Make merry with a 3-in-1 buffet

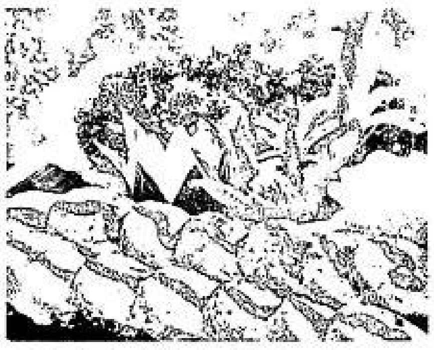
DADS ROUNDS UP A MEDLEY OF European, American and Asian cuisine in addition to its signature servings of Dads Roast Beef, Turkey, Ham, Paella, Lengua, Callos and Pasta.

The salad choices are for diners who are into fresh and healthy eating.

This year's most popular Japanese dishes make a comeback in Saisaki's Celebration Buffet: Niku Sanshoku Furai (breaded beef stuffed with vegetables and cheese); Sakana Chiisu Furai (breaded fish fillet stuffed with cheese); Kani Bacon Maki (crabstick rolled in bacon); and Niku Chiisu Aspa Maki (rolled slices with cheese and asparagus). Sushi and sashimi combinations are definitely not to be missed.

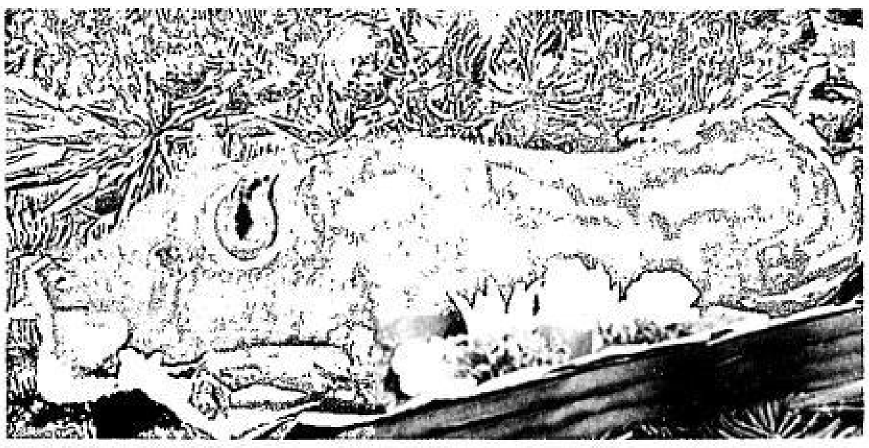
Kamayan goes festive for the season with its Wansapanataym Pasko buffet offering. The most requested Lechon de Leche takes center stage while the all-Filipino fare of Embotido, Pancit Molo, Mechado, Chicken Honey, Pla-pla Caracol lend color, flavor and texture to the holiday table.

Dads also rewards loyal patrons with a load of gifts: one free buffet meal for every group of 10 diners and a chance to win a free party for groups of 10, 15 and 20 from the raffle draw. Happy Diner Cardholders with completed cards can also claim their free buffet.



ADD the classic Embotido from Kamayan to your Yuletide feast.

Dads Ultimate Buffet is priced at P580 and P465 during scheduled promo days, VAT inclusive, at Dads SM Megamall, Glorietta 3, Alabang Town Center, Edsa, Padre Faura and West Avenue (892-8898, 7228125 or 5281723).



Lechon de Leche takes center stage on the holiday spread.

Top artists sing to celebrate 100 years

HERSHEY'S KISSES CELEBRATES its 100th anniversary with a gift of song.

The limited-edition "Unforgettable Kisses" compilation is an exclusive release that puts the spotlight on the kiss in 10 tracks performed by today's hottest artists.

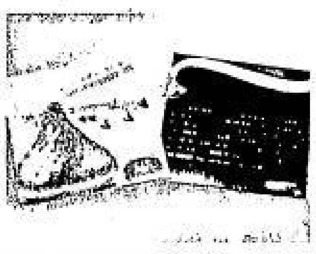
Kiss-themed tunes are performed by Itchyworms, Imago, Color It Red, True Faith, Sitti, Silent Sanctuary, Chillitees, Mcoy Fundales and Toasted.

They include such hits as "It's in her Kiss" by The Hollies, "Kiss Me" by Sixpence None the Richer and "This Kiss" by Faith Hill.

Also in the compact disc is a bonus track, "Hundred Kisses," composed especially as the 100th anniversary song of Hershey's Kisses and performed by Margarita.

"The limited-edition 'Unforgettable Kisses' compilation is dedicated to all Filipinos who have continued to find happiness in Hershey's Kisses all these years. It's our way of celebrating this 100-year-old love affair—a serenade of love and (an expression of) the happiness a kiss brings," said Jerry Santiago, Hershey's Philippines president and regional general manager.

You can win your very own limited-edition "Unforgettable Kisses" compilation.



"UNFORGETTABLE Kisses" CD

Buy any specially-marked Hershey's Kisses pack and look for the unique code found on the pack. Text KISSES <code> to 2600 to Smart, Globe and Sun. Each pack size has a corresponding number of raffle entries. The bigger the pack, the more chances of winning a CD.

Participating Kisses variants include Creamy Almond, Cookies and Créme, Creamy Milk Almond, Classic Milk Chocolate, Classic Milk Chocolate with Almonds and Special Dark in 40-g, 120-g, 180-g and 235-g sizes. Promo is ongoing until Dec. 25.

You can also win the CD by joining the Hershey's radio promo on Jam 88.3, Magic 89.9, NU 107, Crossover 105.1, WRock 96.3, Max FM 103.5 and Baranggay LS 97.1.

The CD is being sold at Odyssey Record Bars.

Visit www.kisses100.com.ph.

Nutritious grapes for the holidays

FOOD ALWAYS takes centerstage in any occasion. Nothing could be truer than during Christmas, when people pull out all the stops with a special menu that befits the season.

This year, make it even more exceptional by including California table grapes on the menu. They are perfect choices: visually appealing, delicious and most of all, nutritionally beneficial.

These and more were recently discussed in the media forum "California Table Grapes: Healthy for the Holidays" held at Portico, Serendra.

Attendees were treated to American grapes which could only come from California. As it turns out, these grapes come in three basic colors: green (at times called white), red and blue-black. Each of them has a distinct texture and taste.

The forum featured cooking enthusiast and Cook Magazine editor in chief Nancy Reyes Lumen demonstrating the versatility of grapes.

She whipped up a refreshing grape recipe and introduced creative ways to use the fruit for the holiday season.

It is really possible to eat delicious and healthy during the Christmas season. Grapes can be rendered fresh, frozen, crushed into a sauce, baked, slushed and in many other ways, Lumen said. She also went on to point out that grapes need not be an afterthought to a meal and it need not stay in the fruit stand.

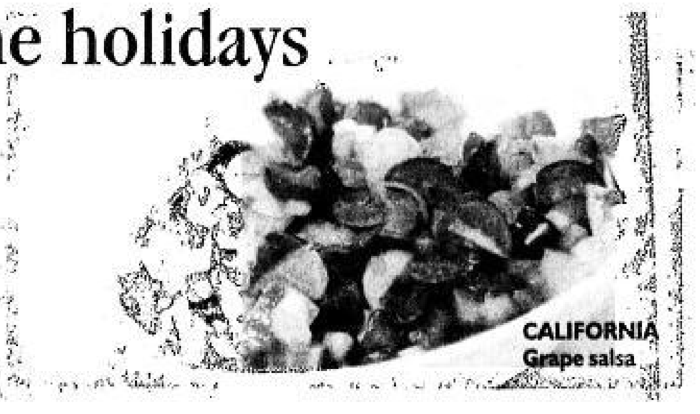
California grapes can also be turned into mouth-watering appetizers, condiments, entrees, salads, side dishes and desserts.

COOKING enthusiast Nancy Reyes-Lumen presents her California grape recipe.

Nutritionist Luchie Callanta explained California grapes boast of benefits that are virtual Christmas bonuses. They are excellent sources of vitamins A, C, B6 and folate. Minerals like potassium, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, iron and selenium, and trace amounts of manganese and zinc are also in grapes. They also have fiber and protein.

She added that California grapes owe their vibrant colors to phytonutrients such as flavonoids and anthocyanins, which are very powerful antioxidants that prevent and counteract the harm done by free radicals.

Flavonoids combat cardiovascular disease, cancer, age-associated disorders and other illnesses and symptoms, she said.



CALIFORNIA Grape salsa

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CHEF Reggie Aspiras, La Camara's Jose Luis Romero-Salas, chef Xandra Cacho and Spanish Embassy's Javier Alvarez

Star-studded Christmas dinner

SIX OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST accomplished chefs and experts in Spanish cuisine will star in "Noche de Creaciones (Night of Creations)," Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m., at the Banquet Hall, Cirkulo Restaurant, 2/F, MilkyWay Bldg., 900 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati.

The yearender event of La Cámara Oficial Española de Comercio, Industria y Navegación en Filipinas, Inc., also serves as the Christmas party of La Cámara's members and their families.

It will showcase unique flavors from various regions of Spain, using only original Spanish ingredients and condiments.

The event caps La Ruta Gastronómica de España, a trio of dinners the past three months, each featuring a team of local and Spanish chefs, by having all six in the same venue.

The star chefs are J. Gamboa of Cirkulo and MilkyWay Restaurants, and Mikel Arriet of Punta Fuego. They launched La Ruta in September with Noche de País Vasco, a feast of Basque dishes, at Cirkulo Restaurant.

Gaudi's Xandra Got-Cacho and Reggie Aspiras were the culinary geniuses behind La Noche de Andalucía in October at Gaudi in Serendra.

Juan Carlos de Terry of Terry Selection and Terry's Bistro in Makati City, and Ariel Manuel of Lolo Dad's Café's staged Sabores de la España Mediterránea or Flavors of the Spanish Mediterranean Coast.

Guests are urged to make early reservations because of limited space. The price of P1,300 for La Camara members, and P1,500 for nonmembers includes dinner and wine.

Collaborating in the culinary event are Amoroso Brandy, Smart Infinity, TNT Express, Mapfre Insular, Fuego Hotels and Soluziona.

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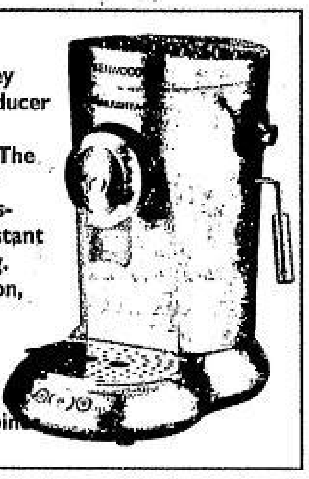

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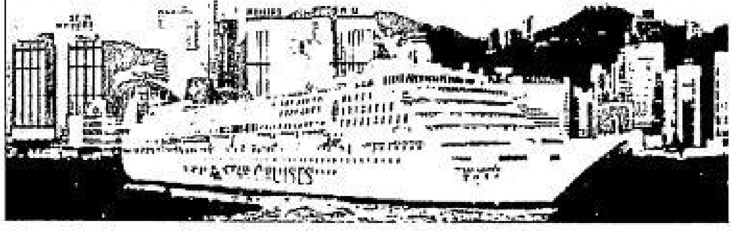

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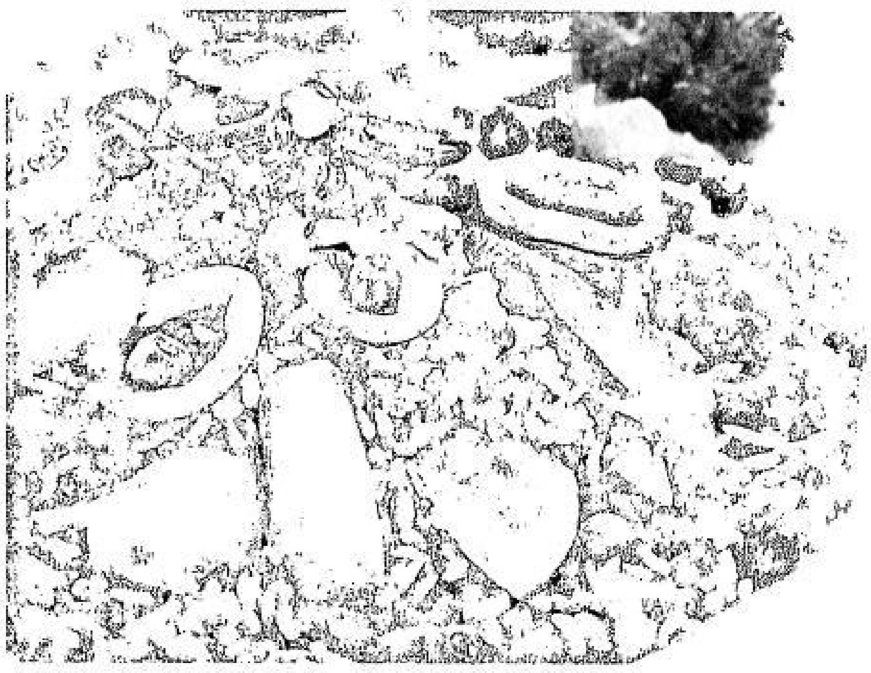


COMFORT FOOD FROM THE AMERICAN SOUTH

For those who are craving for something filling yet different from their usual lunch and dinner fare, Zuppa has got a dish for them. Located on the third level of Eastwood City's Cyber & Fashion Mall, Zuppa has a dish inspired by the Creole flavors of New Orleans. The Seafood Jambalaya is a rice-based stew of seafood, vegetables and spices that hits the spot with its savory flavors that remain long after the last bite (0917-8EWCITY).

DINING OUT

More than just paella

LAS PAELLAS CAFE'S

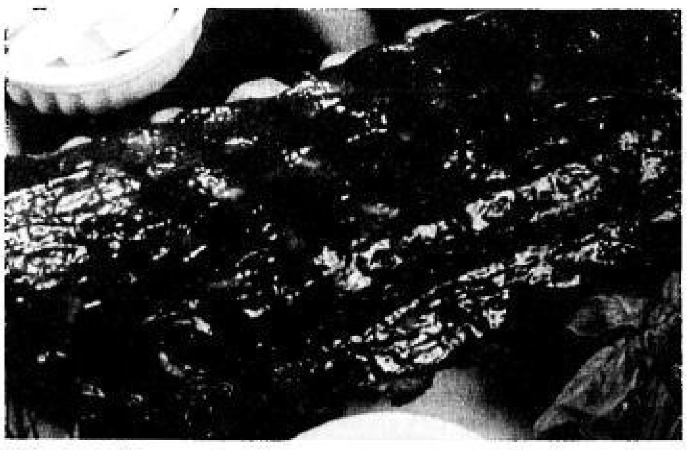
THE NEW **LAS PAELLAS CAFÉ** IN Greenhills is not just about paellas. It also offers Black Angus Roast Beef, Angus Tapa, Chorizo Pasta, Seafood Pomelo Salad, Pork Chop Andaluz, and Peppered Steak, among others. But popular items remain: Paella Valenciana (P395), Paella Negra (P375), and Paella Marinera (P395). Las Paellas Café is at 2/F, The Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan; 723-7485. Other branches are at Festival Supermall (842-6919) and BF Commercial Parañaque (807-9511).

SUPER BOWL OF CHINA is offering two new dishes to make holiday get-togethers more festive. Christmas Roasts will make every yuletide feast extra special. The Whole Chicken Stuffed with Holiday Machang (P350) is roasted chicken stuffed with sticky rice with mixed beans, Chinese sausage, pork asado and black mushrooms in secret spices. The Imperial Roast Pork Ribs (P475), is encrusted with Super Bowl's Mandarin glaze sauce. Orders must be made two days in advance. Other favorites include Lemon Chicken, Sweet and Sour Pork, Honey Glazed Pork Ribs, etc. The Combination Platter includes pork siomai, hakao, deep-fried wanton, pork asado.

APLAYA Restaurant at Greens & Grills offers the perfect starter to any day—Breakfast Buffet for P99 only. The buffet includes Aplaya's popular homemade corned beef and tocino, Carne Fritas, Adobo, and Daing na Bangus, with Garlic Rice, vegetable soup and scrambled eggs. Aplaya also serves Breakfast a la Carte. Choices include bacon, longganisa, pork and beef tapa, all served with Garlic Rice, egg and coffee or iced tea. Aplaya, at the Greens and Grills compound, Festival Supermall, Filicity, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, is open daily, 4 p.m.-10 a.m. (8428985).

POLU KAI GRILL introduces its breakfast menu for the Sunday crowd. The Polu Kai Special includes three-egg mozzarella omelet topped with slow-roasted shredded Kalua pork laced with sautéed spinach and caramelized onions with sidings of Hawaiian French toasts and home-style potatoes. King Kaumaha and Tiki Queen consists of smoked ham and bacon, pan-fried English bangers and luncheon meat, fried eggs, home-style potatoes, buttermilk pancakes, etc. The Musubi Slam features teriyaki-glazed ham musubi and Portuguese sausage. The Bikini offers low-carbohydrate items. Special kiddie plates are also available. Polu Kai Grill is at G/F Shops at Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, 901-1841.

CRUSTASIA'S Thai Shrimp House in Shangri-La Plaza Mall (9104096) offers Thai curry dishes like the Thai Red Curry with Beef Tenderloin, Thai Yellow Curry with Chicken and Chorizo served with whole wheat soba noodles or whole wheat *naan*. It also offers dishes for health-conscious diners-Grilled Squid Thai Style, Mixed Vegetables in Green Curry, Thai Style Bouillabaise, Vietnamese Seafood and Vegetable Crepe.



BURGOO Christmas Party Platter food-to-go. All-time favorite dishes include Buffalo Chicken Wings, Mozzarella Sticks, Quesadilla, Chicken Tender Fingers and Supreme Sampler. Burgoo's wide selection of pizza and pasta includes Supreme, Pepperoni Meatza or Hawaiian Pizza, Seafood Linguini, Angel Hair Classico, Cheesy Beef Baked Macaroni, Penne Arrabiatta, among others. Also available are special salads and burgers.

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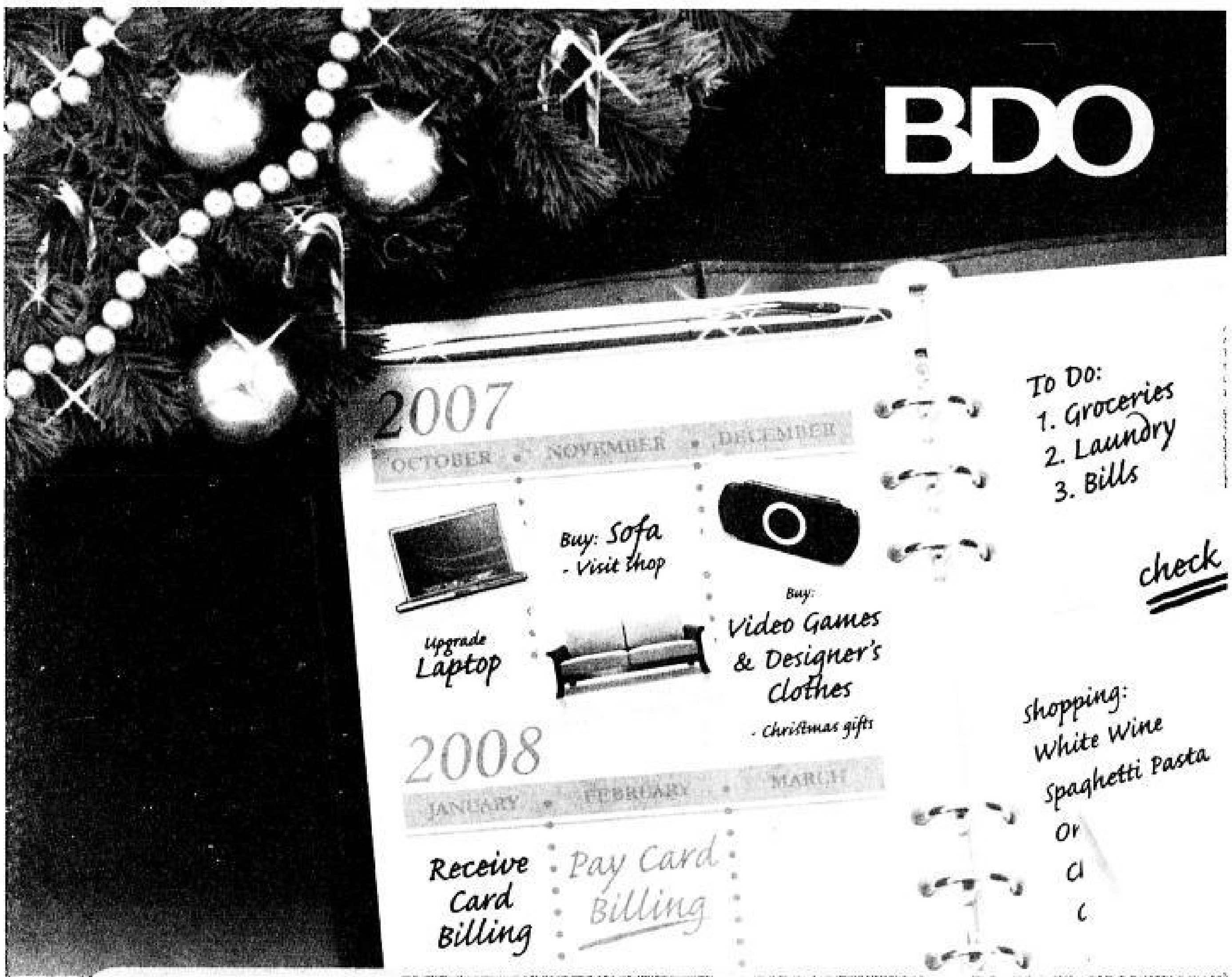

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THURSDAY,
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A SINGAPOREAN Classic—Kopi and Kaya Toast

KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

Rise and shine!

THERE IS SOMETHING AROMATICALLY delicious to wake up to on a cold December morning and it is available in a place that just opened at TriNoma—Toast Box!

Imagine thick toast so generously slathered with butter and tasty *kaya* jam (made of coconut and eggs) and served with perfectly executed soft-boiled eggs and *kopi*. Normally, you could not have this breakfast treat anywhere outside Singapore! But, at Toast Box, it is as authentic as what is served at the Food Republic atrium at Wisma Atria!

In Singapore, *kopi* and *kaya* are found just about everywhere.

"What endeared the Toast Box concept to fans is the preservation of the cultural heritage of Southeast Asia. Given this premise, (replicas of) nostalgic elements like old radios, lamps, charming crockery and embossed flower trays are (used) in the spirit of nostalgia," says Emelene Chu whose family also owns Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf and Bread Talk.

"Toast Box strives to bring back the good old colonial days, when *kopi* was best enjoyed. Our *kopi* masters have been specially trained to bring you the best of Nanyang Kopi."

But do not think that *kopi* and *kaya* toast are the only items on the menu. Other toast toppers worth a try are Spicy Fish Paste (Otah), Hae Bee Hiam (spicy savory prawn) and Toast Box's own blend of peanut butter.

Also setting Toast Box apart are hawker classics that an Asian food lover like myself enjoys: Mee Siam (stir-fried Siamese noodles), Nonya Laksa (spiced noodle soup) and Nasi Lemak (coconut rice with cucumber, peanuts and sambal)

Their wide range of Nonya pastries are equally enticing! Though I only take with me one stomach, fortunately, it takes quite a lot to fill it!

Learn a thing or two

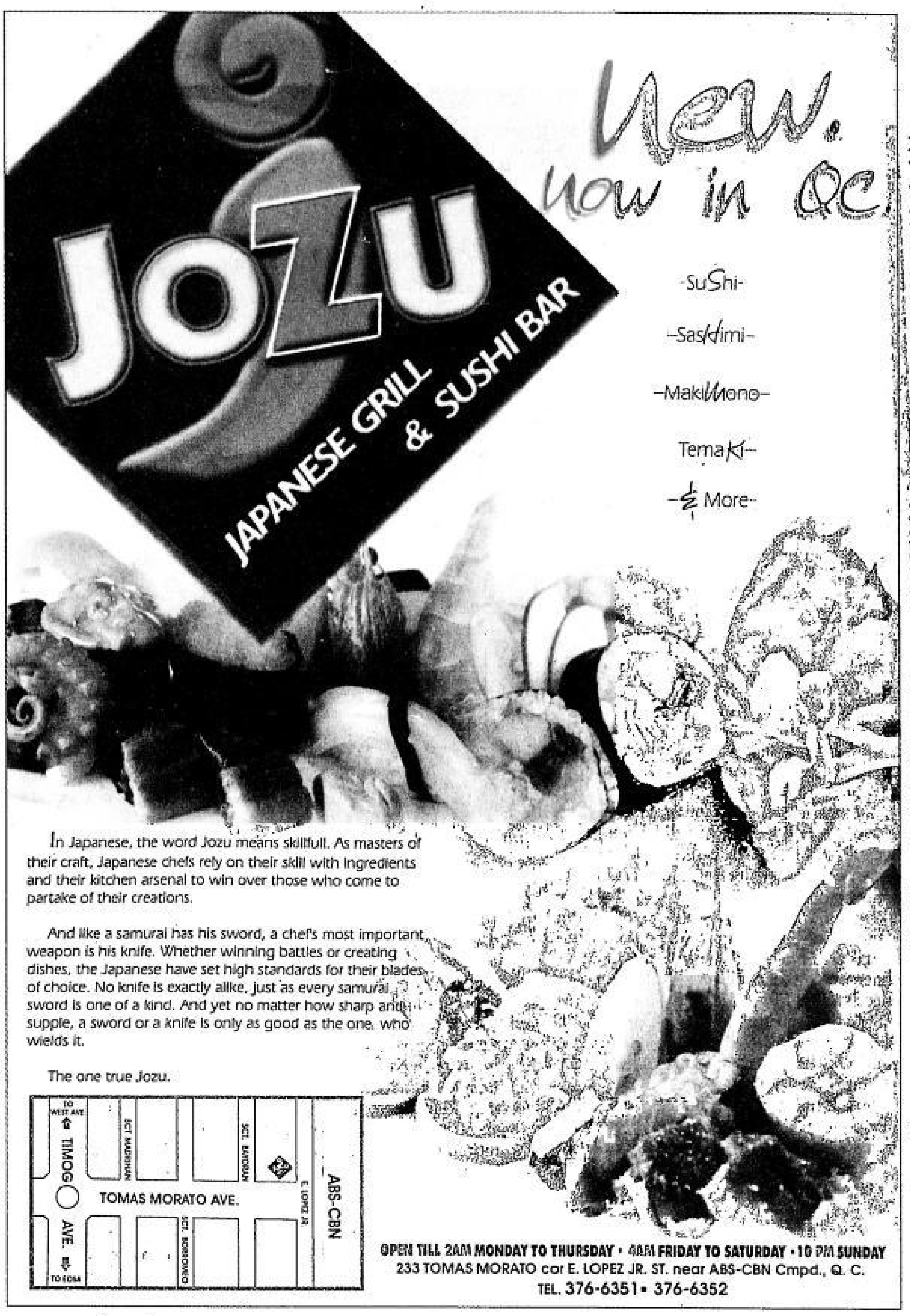
kopi notes from Toast Box:

- *Kopi* (Malay word for coffee) was made popular in Singapore during the British colonial period. The Hainanese learned the art of coffee brewing from Europeans and introduced this unique culture to the Singaporeans.

  Referred to as Nanyang Kopi nowadays, what is unique about the beans is the addition of sugar during the roasting process. As the beans roast in the drum at about 200° Celsius, the sugar is transformed into caramel and forms a thin burnt film around the coffee resulting in a darker and more aromatic brew without the bitterness.
- *Kopi* is brewed by straining the coffee powder (or "grind") through a cloth sack and pulling the coffee from a long-spouted pot. Though the skill may appear to be effortless, *kopi*-brewing requires many years of practice. When you visit *kopi tiams* (local Singaporean coffee houses), you will discover that most, if not all, *kopi* "uncles" (*kopi* masters in Singapore are fondly referred to

RISE/ D3

THIS is "uncle" pulling coffee—a young-looking uncle if you ask me!



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In Japanese, the word Jozu means skillfull. As masters of their craft, Japanese chefs rely on their skill with ingredients and their kitchen arsenal to win over those who come to partake of their creations.

And like a samurai has his sword, a chef's most important weapon is his knife. Whether winning battles or creating dishes, the Japanese have set high standards for their blades of choice. No knife is exactly alike, just as every samurai sword is one of a kind. And yet no matter how sharp and supple, a sword or a knife is only as good as the one who wields it.

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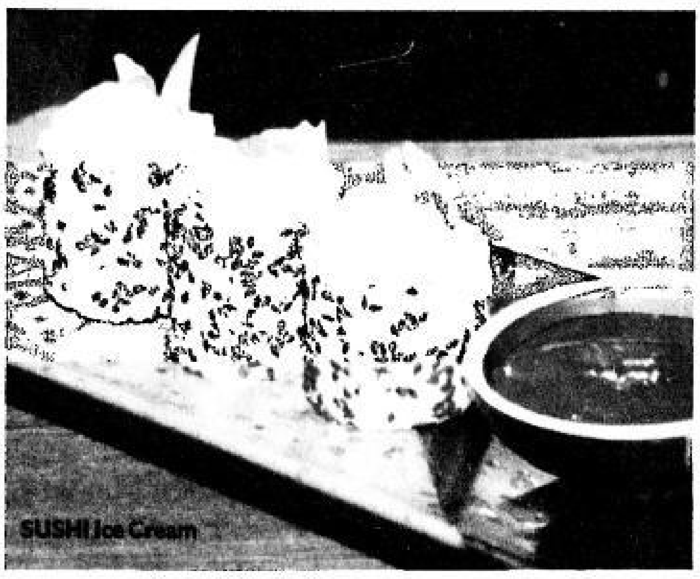
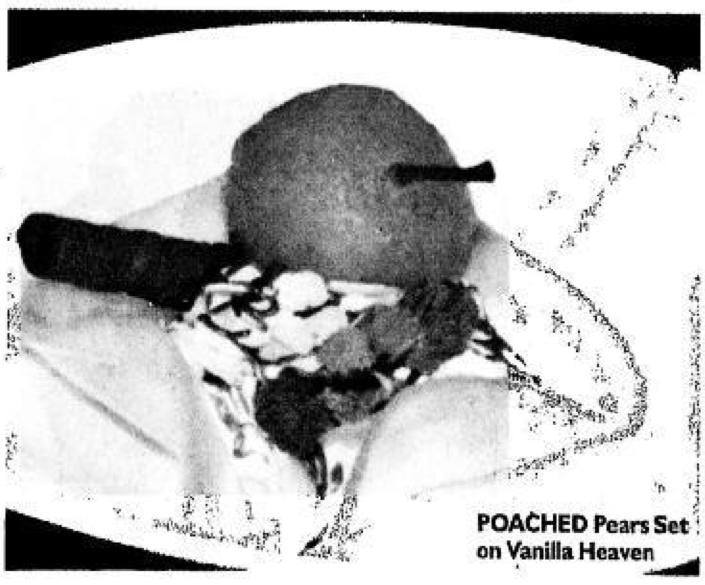
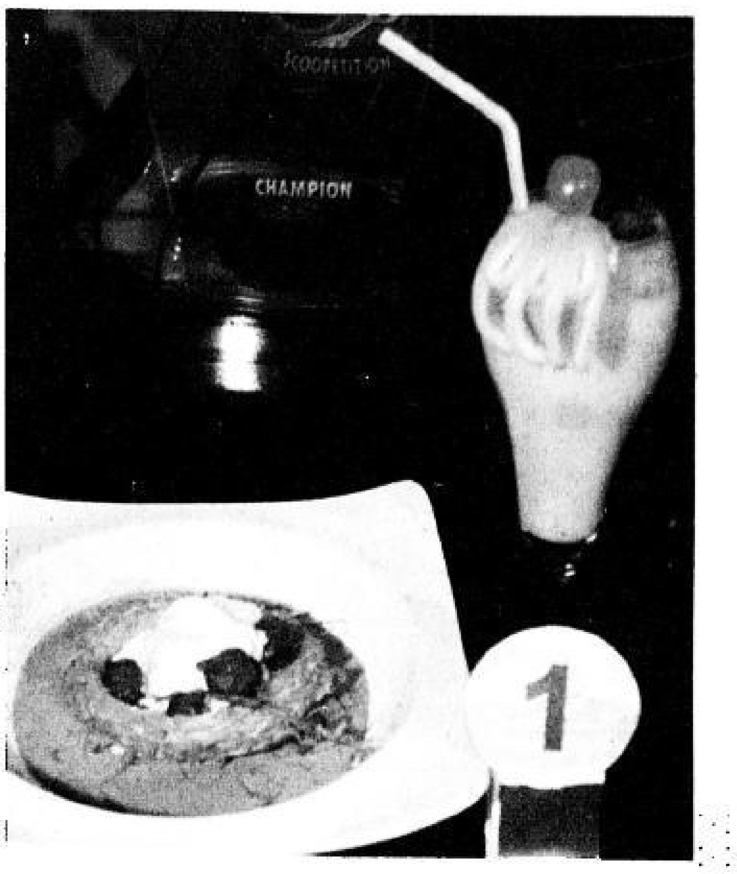


SUSHI Ice Cream



POACHED Pears Set on Vanilla Heaven

New ice cream recipes



LAVENDER Ice Cream Soup with Poached Pears in Kataifi Nests

TREAT YOUR FRIENDS TO ICE CREAM surprises by trying these recipes concocted by some of the country's finest hotel and restaurant management students.

The three recipes topped the recent Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition 2007.

Jade Christopher Lee of De la Salle-College of St. Benilde bagged the grand prize with his Sushi Ice Cream and Strawberry Banana Lassi with Balsamic Reduction recipes.

Second was the Poached Pears set on Vanilla Heaven Tuile Basket with Rum-Chocolate Sauce and Vanilla Lemon Grass Shake by Christian Vasquez of University of Regina Carmeli.

Stefanie Sanciano also of DLS-CSB won third prize for her Lavender Ice Cream Soup with Poached Pears in Kataifi Nests and Kandy Kane drink.

Now on its fourth year, Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition gave away almost P100,000 worth of cash prizes and gift certificates to winners and other participants, and their advisers.

Sushi Ice Cream

½ sheet rice paper
2 tsp butter
30 g rice crispies
50 g marshmallows
5 g black sesame seeds
1 tbsp jasmine syrup
½ pc mango
¼ pc apple, green
6 scoops Nestlé Very Strawberry Ice Cream
1 tsp tapioca
37 ½ ml Nestlé Vanilla Heaven Ice Cream
37 ½ g chocolate, chopped
3 pc *pandan* leaves

NESTLÉ Philippines Out of Home Channel Sales Manager Lizza Ajunan, AVP Regional Sales Manager Food Services Cindy Banaria, Jade Christopher Lee, 3rd place winner Stefanie Sanciano of De La Salle-College of St. Benilde, 2nd place winner Christian Vasquez of University of Regina Carmeli, Nestlé Philippines AVP and Head of Out of Home Channel Sales Wennifer Que Chan-Ty, event host Sam Oh and Out of Home Channel Sales Manager Martin Sunaz

Cut three rice paper strips measuring 4 in x 1½ in and arrange them on a silpat.

Melt the marshmallows with the butter in a small saucepan over low heat. Add the rice crispies and black sesame seeds and mix well. Remove from fire.

Spoon some rice on top of the rice paper and flatten to thin it out. Cut off excess on the edges. Roll the rice wrapper and form a ring.

Spread the rest of the marshmallow and rice crispies on the silpat and cut out circles that will cover one side of the ring. Spray the small cups with jasmine syrup.

Julienne half of the mango and the green apples.

Scoop Nestlé Very Strawberry ice cream on each of the three rings, two scoops each. Place julienned fruits on the sides decoratively and top with tapioca.

For the dipping sauce, heat Nestlé Vanilla Heaven Ice Cream over medium fire then pour over the chocolate. Mix until the chocolate has melted. Transfer to a serving dish or shot glasses.

Transfer the ice cream sushi on a serving plate with the dipping sauce. Garnish with *pandan* leaves.

Puree the rest of the mango to make a coulis and use it to decorate the plate.

Lavender Ice Cream Soup with Poached Pears in Kataifi Nests

Lavender Ice Cream Soup
1 tsp dried lavender flowers
1 scoop Nestlé Vanilla Heaven Ice Cream
2 scoops Nestlé Ube Espesyal Ice Cream
Poached pears
50 ml red wine
½ pc bay leaf
½ sprig of fresh rosemary
½ sprig of fresh thyme
25 g sugar
5-6 pc pear balls
Kataifi Nests
2 tbsp unsalted butter, melted and cooled slightly
10-15 g kataifi (shredded phyllo dough)
1 tsp pistachios, coarsely chopped (optional)
1 scoop Nestlé Vanilla Heaven Ice Cream
dark chocolate ganache
15 g dark chocolate
1 tbsp Nestlé Cream
sugar flambée
1 tbsp brandy
1 sugar cube

Lavender Ice Cream Soup

Put in a pan dried lavender flowers and 2 scoops of Nestlé Ube Espesyal Ice Cream. Reduce the ice cream.

Strain into a clean bowl and quickly whisk in 1 scoop of Nestlé Vanilla Heaven Ice Cream

Poached Pears

In a large saucepan, combine all ingredients except the pears.

Bring to boil and cook the pears in the simmering liquid until tender.

Kataifi Nests

Put oven rack in middle position and preheat oven to 375°F. Melt the butter and transfer in a small spray gun when cooled.

To make the kataifi from phyllo dough, process 1 sheet of phyllo dough in a pasta maker fitted with angel hair attachment.

Gently pull apart strands of kataifi in a large bowl to loosen, then coil it around the bottom side of a muffin mold.

Spritz evenly with the melted butter.

Bake kataifi until the outsides are golden, 12-18 minutes, then cool completely in tin on a rack.

Dark Chocolate Ganache

Pour hot cream onto chopped dark chocolate and stir until melted.

Sugar Flambée

Soak the sugar cube in brandy for about 10 minutes.

Reserve brandy.

To assemble:

Pipe a drop of the ganache on the plate and pour in the soup.

Carefully place on the ganache the nest and scoop in Nestlé Vanilla Heaven Ice Cream.

Top it with the poached balled pears.

Drizzle with a little of the poaching liquid.

Garnish with a sprig of thyme.

Place on top the sugar to flambé and ignite.

Poached Pears Set on Vanilla Heaven Tuile Basket with Rum-Chocolate Sauce

5 pc poached pears
5 scoops Nestlé Vanilla Heaven Ice Cream
5 pc tuile baskets
whipped cream
roasted almond flakes
chocolate rum sauce
chocolate sticks
mint leaves

Lay tuile basket on serving dish.

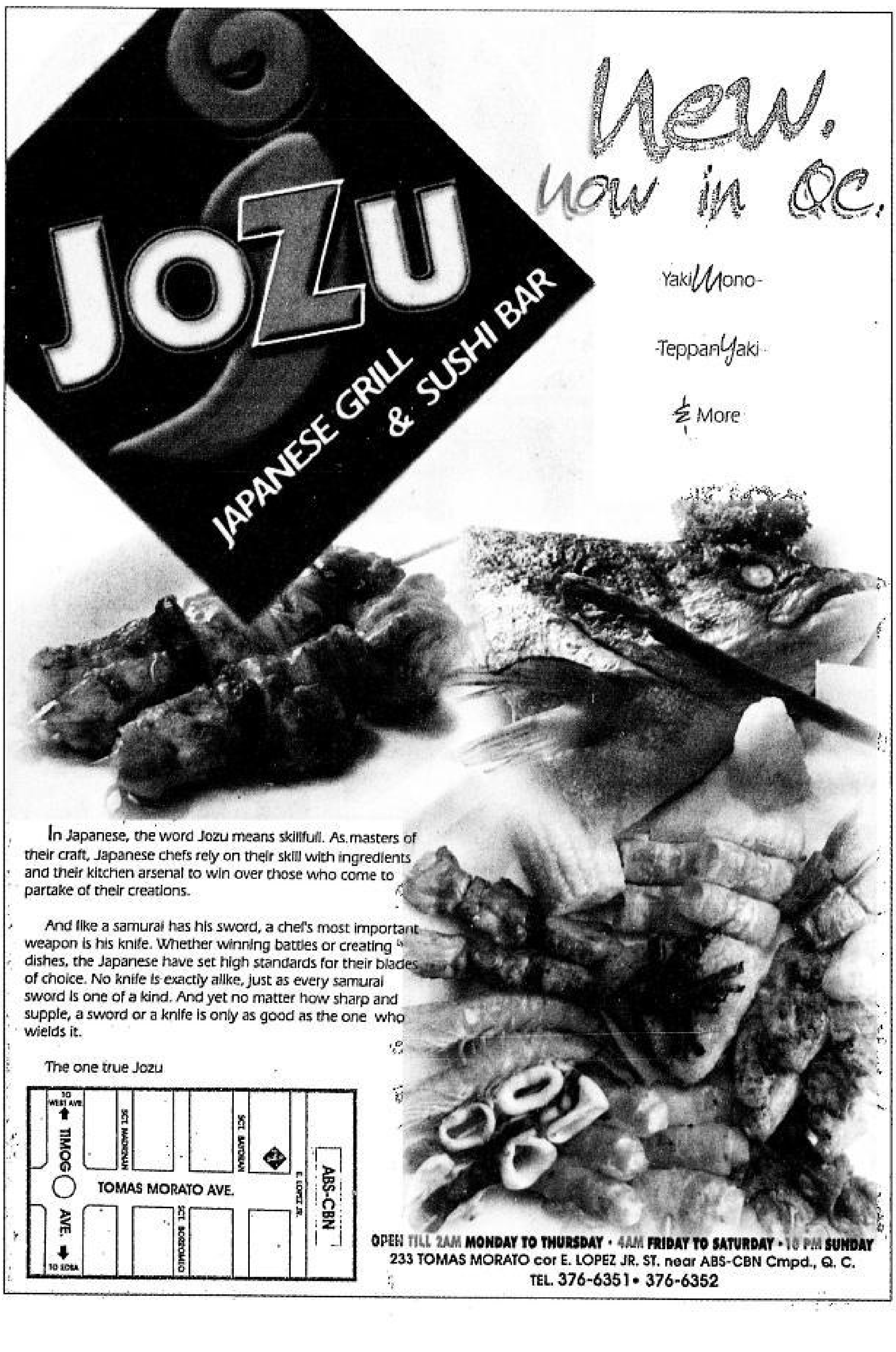
Scoop vanilla ice cream into tuile basket.

Set a piece of poached pear on top.

Drizzle with chocolate-rum sauce.

Lace with whipped cream and sprinkle with roasted almonds.

Aesthetically arrange the chocolate sticks and mint leaves.



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FERDIE CACNIO: Swept by the Dance

By Cid Reyes

Cid Reyes is an art critic-artist. He was formerly president of the Art Critics Association of the Philippines. In 2001-2002, he was chosen critic of the year by the Art Manila Quarterly. In 2003, he was elevated to the Hall of Fame for Art Criticism by AMQ.

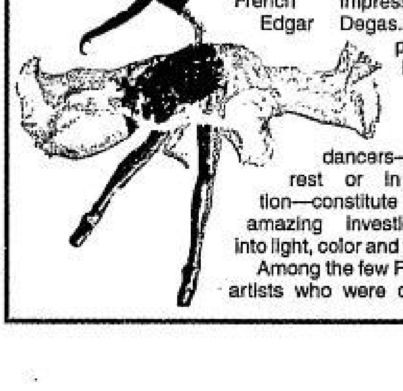
He is co-author of the book "Art Philippines". He has written books on prominent Filipino artists like BenCab, Arturo Luz, Malang, J. Elizalde Navarro and Pacita Abad. He currently works as VP corporate communications director of Ace Saatchi-Saatchi.

"The body says what words cannot." - Martha Graham

"Dance is the movement of the universe concentrated in an individual."- Isadora Duncan

"Those who dance are considered insane by those who can't hear the music."- George Carlin

How to translate and transpose the unique qualities and energies of one art form into another has ever been the challenge of the artist intent on breaking barriers, whether pictorial, sculptural, musical or filmic. Only through a thorough understanding of the original material or image, both as impetus and inspiration, will the artist attain freshness, coherence and continuity that transcend the novelty of the enterprise—say, from novel into film, poem into song, dance into painting or sculpture.



The latter example, in particular, holds formidable difficulties. Dance is an art of motion, a performance responding to the stimulus of music, actually and simultaneously heard. Dance, as a sustained subject in art, is popularly exemplified by the work of the 19th century French Impressionist Edgar Degas. His paintings of ballet dancers—at rest or in motion—constitute an amazing investigation into light, color and form. Among the few Filipino artists who were drawn, literally, to the art of dance was the late National Artist J. Elizalde Navarro. In sculpture, only one has shown intense devotion to dance. In a succession of shows, Ferdie Cacnio has turned in his own impressive performance. In the liveliest fashion, Cacnio's craftsmanship transforms brass and copper sheets into a choreographic experience. The essential impulse in Cacnio's sculptures is the pursuit of the expressive gesture, specifically arrested moment that seems like an eternal pause. Though still and immobile, the dancer's pose captures the elasticity of tension and repose of isolation—in the flailing of the arms, the arched torso flung backwards, in the fluid rushing of sprightly feet. Cacnio catches the elegance of a body sailing through the air, as if the airiness of space itself becomes the hollowed volume from which the sculptural figure emanated.

Deriving energy from every manner of dance—whether classical ballet, modern jazz, or fiery Spanish flamenco—Cacnio responds in equal measure, summoning a lightning flash in the swirling of a voluminous skirt.

Indeed, each part of the dancer's physiognomy, each detail of her accoutrements, sharpens our interest in her. From the vertiginous stiletto heels that look like a pair of dangerous instruments ready to attack, to the compressed flesh of breasts tightly heaving from beneath a stifling bodice—Cacnio is in control of material and emotion. What awakens the audience to the thrill of such elegantly arrested motions is the pleasurable vivacity of the experience as, any minute now, one half expects the house to break in with applause.

With the suavity of a trained stage performer, Ferdie Cacnio, the sculptor, shapes figure and space with the musicality of the born choreographer, swept by an instinctive dance rhythm. By turns earthbound and spiritual, his dance sculptures possess the compressed energy and fury of bodies articulating universal emotions: joy and celebration, tragedy and despair, in the purest expression that dance can communicate.

Ferdie Cacnio's exhibit "Rhythm and Movement in Metal" which feature his works are displayed at the Bonifacio Global City's Community Facility (along 26th street) up to Nov. 29, 2007. Ferdie Cacnio is one of the artists tapped by the Bonifacio Art Foundation Inc. (BAFI), who has done the "Pasasalamat" art piece displayed at Bonifacio Global City.

Delicious holiday gifts

HERE ARE SOME OF THE MOST delicious gift suggestions from San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center.

Colorfully packaged for the holidays, Berry Pillows, Carrot Cheesecake, Chocolate Loaf, Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies and Food for the Gods will be much appreciated by recipients.

For other Christmas recipes, visit www.mygreatfood.com.

CARROT
Cheesecake

Food for the Gods

2 c PureFoods Baron all-purpose flour
2 tsp PureFoods Bake Best Baking Powder
½ tsp salt
1½ c pitted dates, chopped
1½ c walnuts, coarsely chopped
1½ c Magnolia Gold Butter, melted
2 c brown sugar, packed
1 tsp vanilla
5 pc eggs
Chocolate Glaze:
1 c all-purpose cream
¼ c Magnolia Gold Butter
1 c bittersweet chocolate, chopped
Vanilla Glaze:
2 c powdered sugar
2 tsp vanilla
½ c water

Preheat oven to 325°F. Line two baking pans (12" x 16") with Glad Aluminum Foil. Grease and set aside.

Sift flour, baking powder and salt. Add chopped dates and walnuts. Set aside. Combine melted butter, brown sugar and vanilla. Add in eggs one at a time. Fold in flour and nuts mixture. Pour mixture into prepared baking pan. Bake for 25-35 minutes or until golden brown, top with the desired glaze.

To make Chocolate Glaze: Scald cream and butter, pour over chopped chocolate and let stand for two minutes. Mix well until smooth consistency. Set aside until ready to use.

To make Vanilla Glaze: Combine all of the ingredients until well blended on a mixer. Set aside until ready to use.

Makes 48 bars.

Berry Pillows

¾ c sour cream
1 c Magnolia Gold Butter
⅔ c Purefoods Baron All-Purpose Flour
Filling:
2 tubs Magnolia Best Fruits Jam, Strawberry
Sugar for coating

Combine sour cream, butter, and flour on a food processor until formed into a dough. Gather dough into a ball. Wrap with Glad Cling Wrap and chill.

Cut into 4 equal pieces. On a lightly floured surface, roll out one piece shaping into a 12" x 4" rectangle, spread one side with jam. Roll out into a log. Cut into desired sizes per log.

Roll each piece in sugar and arrange on a cookie sheet lined with Glad Bake Paper. Bake at pre-heated oven at 350°F for 15 minutes or until done.

Serves eight to 10.

Carrot Cheesecake

Crust:
1 c graham crackers, crumbs
3 tbsp sugar
½ tsp ground cinnamon
3 tbsp Magnolia Gold Butter
Filling:
2 blocks Magnolia Cream Cheese
½ c sugar
½ c Purefoods Baron All-Purpose Flour
4 pc whole eggs
2 pc egg yolks
¼ c orange juice
1 c carrots, finely shredded
½ tsp nutmeg
¼ tsp ginger

Preheat oven to 325°F

Mix crumbs, sugar, cinnamon and butter and press onto bottom of 9-inch spring form pan and bake for 10 minutes. Increase oven temperature to 450°F.

Beat cream cheese, sugar and ¼ c flour at medium speed until well blended. Add eggs and egg yolks one at a time beating well after each addition. Blend in juice and add in remaining flour, carrots and spices and mix well. Pour over crust. Bake for 10 minutes and reduce oven temperature to 250°F and continue baking for 55 minutes.

Turn off oven and let cheesecake cool for one hour inside the cooling oven. Loosen cake from rim of pan. Let cool completely and then refrigerate. Garnish with orange zest or shredded carrots if desired.

Serves six to eight.

Chocolate Loaf with Cream Cheese Filling

Chocolate Batter:
1¼ c Purefoods Baron All-Purpose Flour
1 tsp Purefoods Bake Best Baking Powder
1 tsp baking soda
¼ tsp salt
½ + 1/3 c cold water
½ c cocoa powder
½ tsp vanilla
½ c Magnolia Gold Butter
1¼ c sugar
2 pc eggs
Filling:
1 c Magnolia Cream Cheese
3 tbsp sugar
2 pc egg whites

Preheat oven to 325°F. Line with baking paper two 10" x 4" loaf pan.

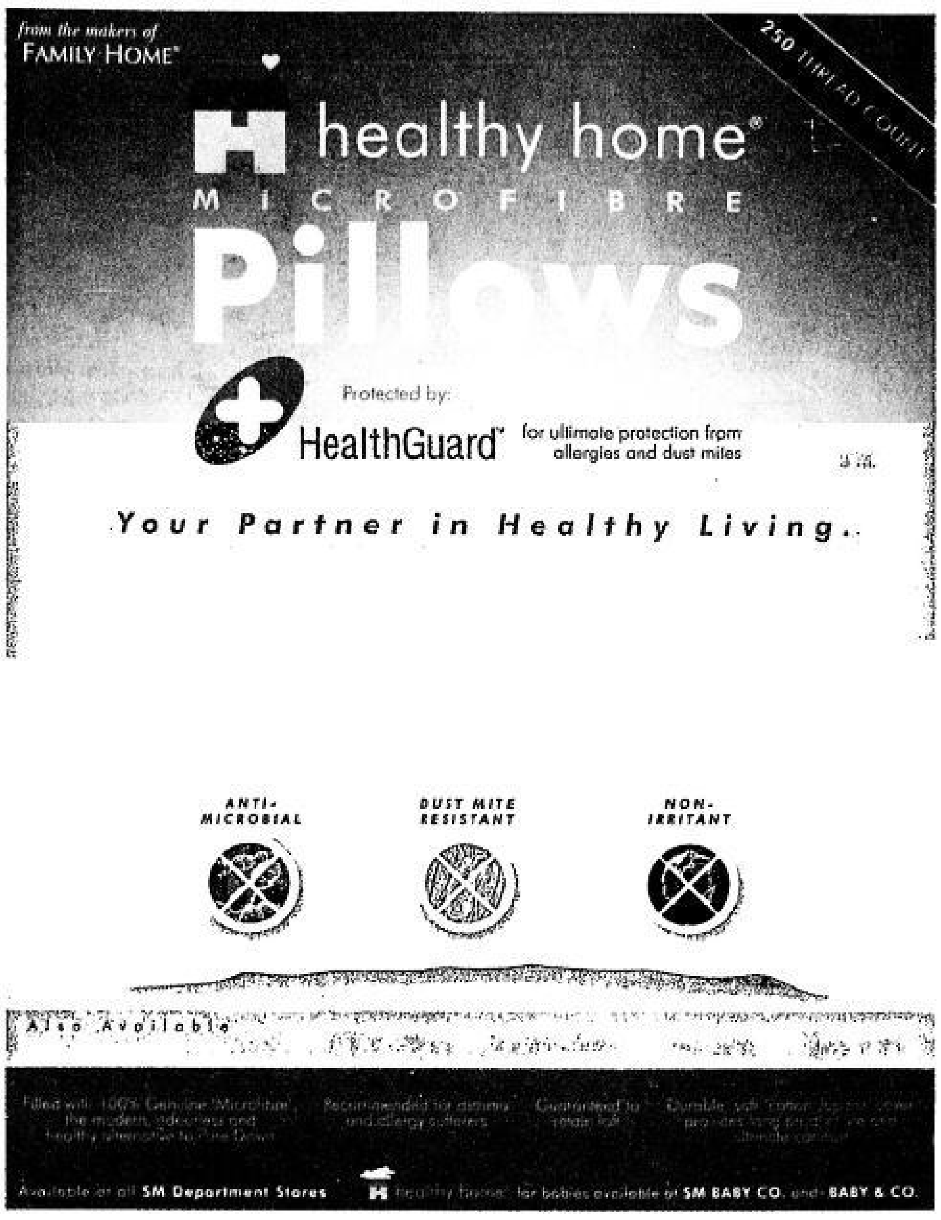
Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a bowl. Set aside. Combine cold water, cocoa and vanilla. Mix until smooth and set aside in the refrigerator.

Cream butter and sugar for 10 minutes at medium speed. Add eggs one at a time beating well after each addition. At low speed, add flour mixture alternately with cocoa mixture. Mix until smooth. Set aside.

Beat cream cheese, sugar and egg whites until smooth and creamy. Pour half of the chocolate batter mixture into prepared two loaf pans and pour half of the cream cheese mixture on top of it and cover with the remaining chocolate batter mixture and bake for 25-30 minutes or until done.

Makes two Chocolate Loaves.

BERRY Pillows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Tropical Chicken Packages

COOKING TEACHER ANA PARK SHARES this recipe using Glad Cook n' Bake, which she says is probably the most versatile brand for the kitchen. More recipes are available in every box of Glad Cook 'n' Bake.

2 chicken breasts, cut into strips
1 red or green pepper, cut into small squares
½ can pineapple tidbits, drained
¼ c dessicated coconut, unsweetened
2 tbsp fresh cilantro (*wansuy*) leaves
Marinade:
1 c coconut cream (*kakang gata*)
2 tbsp fish sauce (*patis*)
1 green chili
1 tsp chopped garlic
1 1-inch segment ginger, chopped
1 tsp thick dark soy sauce
½ c fresh cilantro
½ c fresh basil

Prepare the marinade. Place all marinade ingredients in a food processor or blender and process well.

Transfer marinade with the chicken, bell pepper and pineapple into a large Glad Zipper Bag. Marinate for at least two hours, up to overnight.

Put dessicated coconut in a frying pan over medium-high heat. Stir constantly until the coconut is toasted or until its color turns a light golden brown. Set aside.

Cut eight 12-inch pieces of Glad Cook 'n' Bake. Place one sheet of paper on top of the other. Pour about 1/3 cup of the chicken mixture onto the center of the paper. Wrap it up like a square package, folding the sides over the mixture, and then folding over both ends. Secure the packets with toothpicks. Turn seam-side down.

Place the packets on a baking pan and bake at 350°F for 30-35 minutes. When the packets are done, take them out and place them on serving plates.

Cut parcels to open and sprinkle with fresh coriander, basil, and some of the toasted coconut. Serve immediately with hot steamed rice.

Rise and shine!

From page D1

as "uncles" because of their years in the trade, and they are usually men) have been brewing and pulling *kopi* for many years, the skill having been handed down from generation to generation.

• *Kopi* terms (these will help you get the cup of *kopi* that suits you best):

Kopi-o: coffee without milk
Kopi: coffee with condensed milk
Kopi-c: coffee with evaporated milk
Ping: with ice
Po: weak, made with more water and less coffee
Gao: strong, made with more coffee and less water
D! lo: all coffee, no water
Ga dai: More sugar
Siu dai: Less sugar
Kosong: No sugar

Kopi-o, Kopi, Kopi-c... Does it matter? Not really! All I know is Toast Box, TriNoma has given us better reason to stop, smell and taste the Kopi!

Toast Box now has seven outlets in Singapore and has found its way to Shanghai, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Manila (tel. 9152856).

Giveaways

I know writing you might defeat my purpose but I'm desperate! Would you know of yet-to-be-discovered bakers or pastry makers who make delicious (but affordable) Christmas giveaways like cookies, bars or cupcakes?

Rissee

Arvin David (0927-3026131) is one of those people you love to hate. He is a *leche flan* maker who also happens to be my floor director for Venus Cooks for Mars on Channel 76.

I am proud to say he got the base recipe from Kitchen Rescue and turned it into a home business! His killer flan is made of duck eggs and you can demolish it in one sitting. It is almost like *tocino* in taste and texture.

The flan comes in regular and specialty variants, like with duck eggs and carabao's milk and with *dayap*.

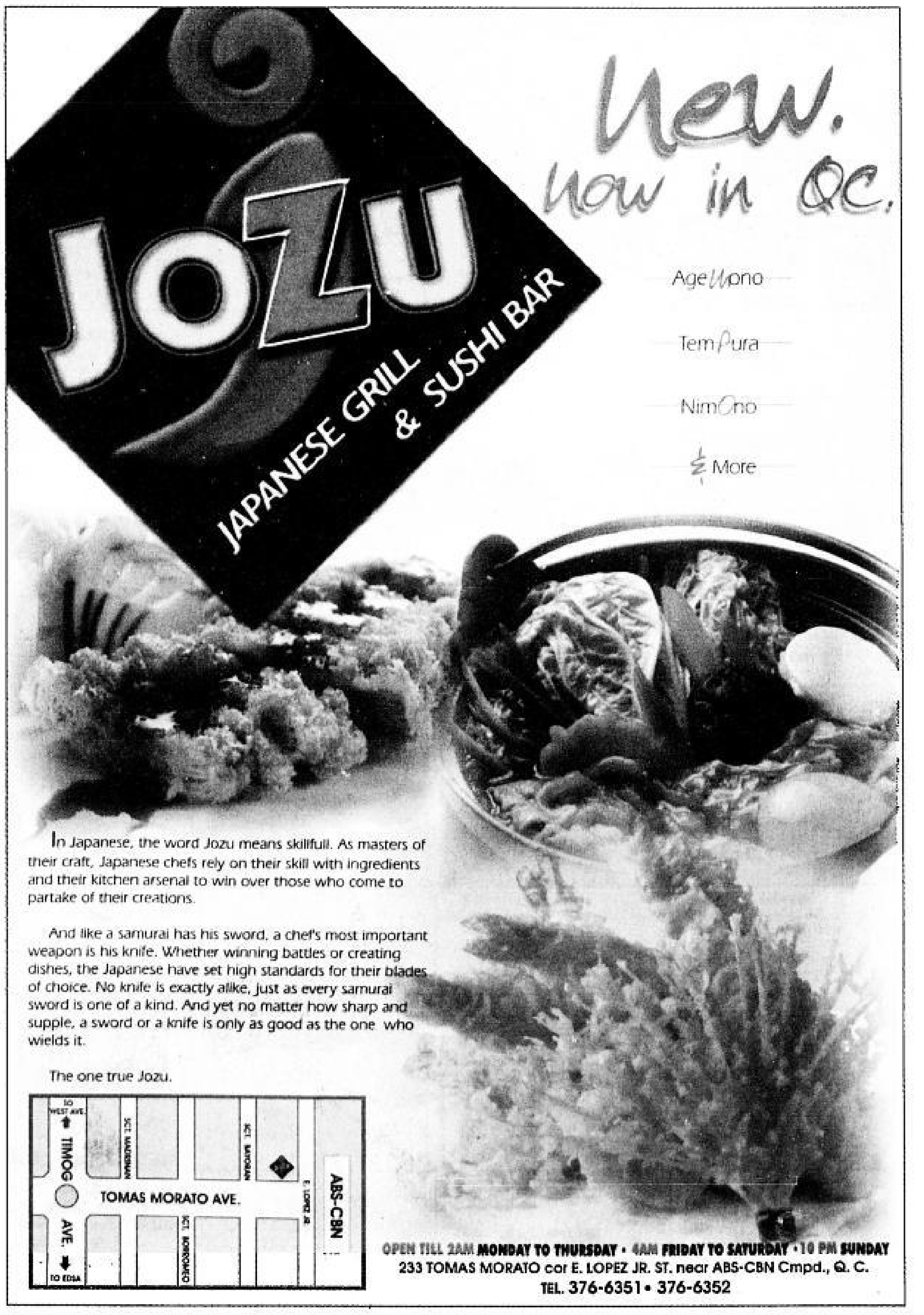
The duck eggs flans cost P30-P50. As for his specialty flans, well, he has no prices yet though by today I am sure he has made his decisions.

Aside from flans, he also sells duck eggs. Packaging? Well, at P50, *bahala ka na*! Add ribbons or pop them into a box!

You may also want to get bottled Kaya from Toast Box at P120 per jar. Delicious!

As for cupcakes, cookies and bars ... let me look around. Have seen quite a bit but have not tasted them all nor have I checked out the prices. Will get back to you!

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph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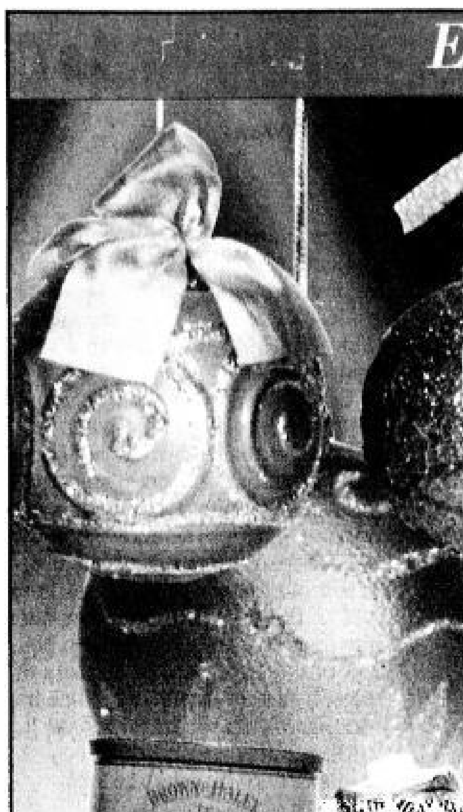

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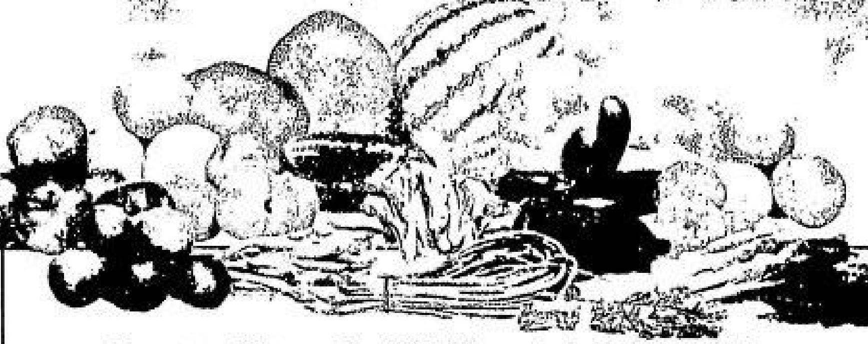
Fruit Zoo Juice
Grape Wild Berries Vitamins & Minerals,
Peach Clementine Vitamins & Minerals,
Strawberry Ban Vitamins & Minerals
960ml P75.00/pkg



Champion Watermelon P21.00/kg • Gabi Cebu P24.15/kg
• Dalandan P26.25/kg • Cucumber P36.75/kg
• Eggplant P36.75/kg • Native Petchay P36.75/kg
• China Apple P42.00/kg • Cantaloupe P47.25/kg • Sitao P47.25/kg
• Native Mustard P50.40/kg • Baguio Beans P57.75/kg
• Baguio Tomatoes P63.00/kg • Ponkan P78.75/kg
• Orange Navel P84.00/kg • Pomelo Davao P84.00/kg
• Washington Red Apple P94.50/kg • Nenita Pomelo P126.00/kg
• Kinchay P189.00/kg

Lenders
Bagel Cinnamon Swirl
6 Pre Sliced, Frozen
340g P87.50/pkg
Blue Bonnet
Spread Bowl Light, Frozen
454g P99.50/pkg

Whitmans
Sampler
Nut Chewy & Crisp,
Dark Chocolate,
Assorted Chocolates
340g P531.50/pkg

Swiss Miss
Non Dairy Creamer
200g P35.85/pkg
400g P68.65/pkg
5g x 48's P73.65/pkg

White King
Complete Hotcake & Waffle Mix
500g P51.50/pkg
Sweetened Complete
Hotcake & Waffle Mix
500g P52.95/pkg

Quaker
Quick Cook Oatmeal, Foil
400g P52.85/pkg
Instant Oatmeal, Foil
800g P100.50/pkg

Purefoods
Chicken Fun Nuggets
Christmas Crunch 200g P54.95/pkg
Super Zoomers 200g P54.95/pkg

Golden Grain
Lasagna
454g P85.50/pkg

Nabisco
Chips Ahoy!
Mini Chocolate Chip 226g P97.50/pkg
Oreo Chocolate Bar
Macadamia, Strawberry
130g P143.95/pkg

Birds Eye
Sweet Garden Peas, Frozen
907g P219.50/pkg
Sunny Select
Blueberries, Frozen 453g P335.00/pkg

Pacific Sun
Iced Tea Lemon, Pandan
350ml P12.60/bot • 400ml P15.00/bot
Cobra
Energy Drink 350ml P15.00/bot

Coca-Cola
Regular, Sprite Regular, Royal
Grape, Royal Tru-Orange,
Sprite Ice, Sarsi, can
330ml P16.50/can

Magnolia
Lemon Iced Tea
Powdered Drink Mix
500g P36.10/pkg

Berri
Orange Juice, Pet
2.4L P152.00/bot

Coors
Light Premium Beer
w/ Free T-Shirt
330ml x 24bot P507.00/case

Andre'
Champagne
Brut, Rose
750ml P445.00/bot

Astring-O-Sol
Freshmint Concentrated Mouthwash
250ml P154.60/bot
Specialist Oral Antiseptic
250ml P207.50/bot

Knorr
Broth Cubes Pantry Pack
Pork, Beef 66g P26.25/pkg
Crab and Corn Chinese Soup
60g P36.25/pkg

French's
Mustard Yellow Classic
170g P31.50/bot

Campbell's
Chicken Noodle Soup
305g P39.25/can

Yamachu
Ready Mix Wasabi in Tube
45g P44.25/bot

A1
Steak Sauce
142g P81.25/bot
283g P154.50/bot

Betty Crocker
Bacos Bits 125g P89.50/bot
Bacos Chips 116g P89.50/bot

Instant
Ocean Hydrometer P595.00/pc
Ocean Sea Salt [illegible] P958.50/pkg
Reef Crystals
Reef Salt [illegible] P685.00/pack

Gardenia
Twiggies Snack Cake
Chocolate, Chocolate-Vanilla,
Strawberry 4x40g P29.00/pkg

Kraft
Salad Dressing
Coleslaw, Catalina, Creamy French
237ml P85.50/bot
Coleslaw, Fat Free Catalina,
Fat Free SCO/Ranch 473ml P160.50/bot

Planters
Dry Roasted Peanuts
226g P95.50/bot
Mixed Nuts 184g P118.50/can

Nabisco
Oreo Mini Chocolate Sandwich Cookies, Bite Size
[illegible] P97.75/pkg
Jacobsen's
Sugar Free Butter Cookies, Shortbread Fingers, Apple Cinnamon,
Continental Cappe [illegible] P98.50/pkg
Mariani
Pitted Prunes, Bite Size Pitted Prunes [illegible] P120.50/pkg

Weight Watcher
Almond Nougat [illegible], Mint Pattie [illegible],
Crispy Butter Cream Caramel [illegible], Pecan Crowns,
Caramel Medallions, Nougie Nutty Chew
Peanut Butter Crunch [illegible] P158.95/pkg
Whitmans
Sugar Free Sampler Assorted S/F Candies
[illegible] P415.00/pkg

Nestle
Christmas Dark Chocolate Jingles,
Toll House Cookies Pieces in
Real Milk Chocolate Jingles 340.1g P188.50/pkg
Christmas Crunch Crisp Miniatures
283.4g P188.50/pkg
Babyruth Miniatures 311.8g P178.50/pkg

Russel Stover
S/F Raspberry Covered w/ Choc. Candy, S/F French Mint
Choc. Candy, Dark Choc. 170g P207.50/pkg
S/F Mint Patties Covered w/ Dark Choc. Candy,
S/F Toffee Squares Covered w/ Choc. Candy, 4 Flavors
[illegible] P349.50/pkg
S/F Pecan Delight, Pecan & Caramel Covered
w/ Choc. Candy [illegible] P267.50/pkg

Wonka
Christmas Sweetarts Tangy Candy
Cane, Chocolate Candy Cane, Spree
Candy Cane, Gobstopper Candy Cane
170g P136.50/pkg

Hershey's
Kisses Creamy Milk Choco w/ Almonds
235g P147.50/pkg
Milk Chocolate Bar, 6 Pack
263g P165.50/pkg

Cadbury
Panned Cashew Nuts
180g P184.50/pkg
Panned Hazel Nuts, Tin
320g P378.50/tin

Brown & Haley
Almond Roca Box 140g P185.50/pkg
Cashew Roca, Mocha Roca 119g P185.50/pkg
Almond Roca Buttercrunch
Toffee Cookies 283g P270.50/pkg

Post Honey Bunches of Oats
Cereal w/ Almonds
453g P185.50/pkg
Blueberry Morning Cereal
382g P251.50/pkg

Post Honey Comb Nutritious
Sweetened Corn & Oat Cereal
411g P190.50/pkg
624g P220.50/pkg
Honey Comb Chocolate Cereal
382g P201.50/pkg

Golden
Bonbon Nougat
Crunchy Almond, Soft Almond
Maple, Soft Almond Orange,
Soft Almond 140g P210.50/pkg

Vernel
Fabric Softener
Silky White 20ml x 6's P16.25/pkg
35ml x 6's P27.30/pkg
1L P127.25/bot • 2L P227.25/bot

Colgate
Fluoride Toothpaste
Advanced Whitening
160g P66.30/tube
360 Toothbrush P99.70/pc

Kleenex
White Unscented Facial Tissues, 2 Ply
190 sheets P67.75/pkg
Huggies
Diaper Dry Comfort [illegible] P372.15/pkg

Cheers Folded Table Napkins
350 sheets P100.70/pkg
Sanicare Bathroom Tissue, 2 Ply
12 Rolls P123.50/pkg

Domex
Thick All Around Home Cleaner, Lemon Fresh
1L P122.90/bot
Surf
Powder Blossom Fresh, w/ Fabric Conditioner
2k P149.75/bag

Ariel
Detergent Powder
Oxy Bleach, Oxy Bleach Ultramatic
1440g P227.75/pkg
Sunshine Freshness of Downy,
Freshness of Downy [illegible] P227.75/pkg

EQ
Dry Baby Diapers, Econo Pack
S-40's, M-36's, L-32's, XL-28's
P254.00/pkg

Makati Supermart Alabang [illegible]
Unimart [illegible]
Cash&Carry Supermarket [illegible]

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
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Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

ENJOYING turkey talk at the Coyote Run Farm in Iowa

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

Talking turkey

IT'S A WEEK PAST THE AMERICAN Thanksgiving, probably the most important occasion for family reunions and sharing a meal in the United States. At center table is always the turkey. The big bird is usually roasted and stuffed.

We learned at the Coyote Run Farm in Iowa of the trend to dine on "heritage" turkeys for Thanksgiving. Heritage turkeys are described as the ancestors of today's commercial turkeys, known as "common broad-breasted white industrial breed."

Making heritage turkeys more appealing is the fact they are free range and organic—healthy lifestyle buzz words.

That is akin to our native chickens, what we call *manok Tagalog* or *manok Bisaya* de-

TALKING/ E4

I learned fowl language in Cagayan de Oro

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Indulgence Section
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0956, Series of 2007
Up to 80% Off!
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ESCADA SPORT
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Diamond Peel + Vit C Facial P900
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ThermaShape, 5+1 sessions P17,500
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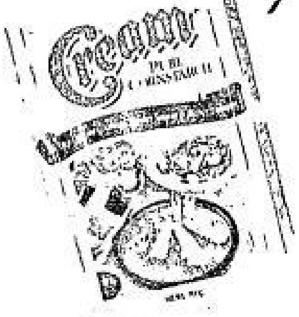
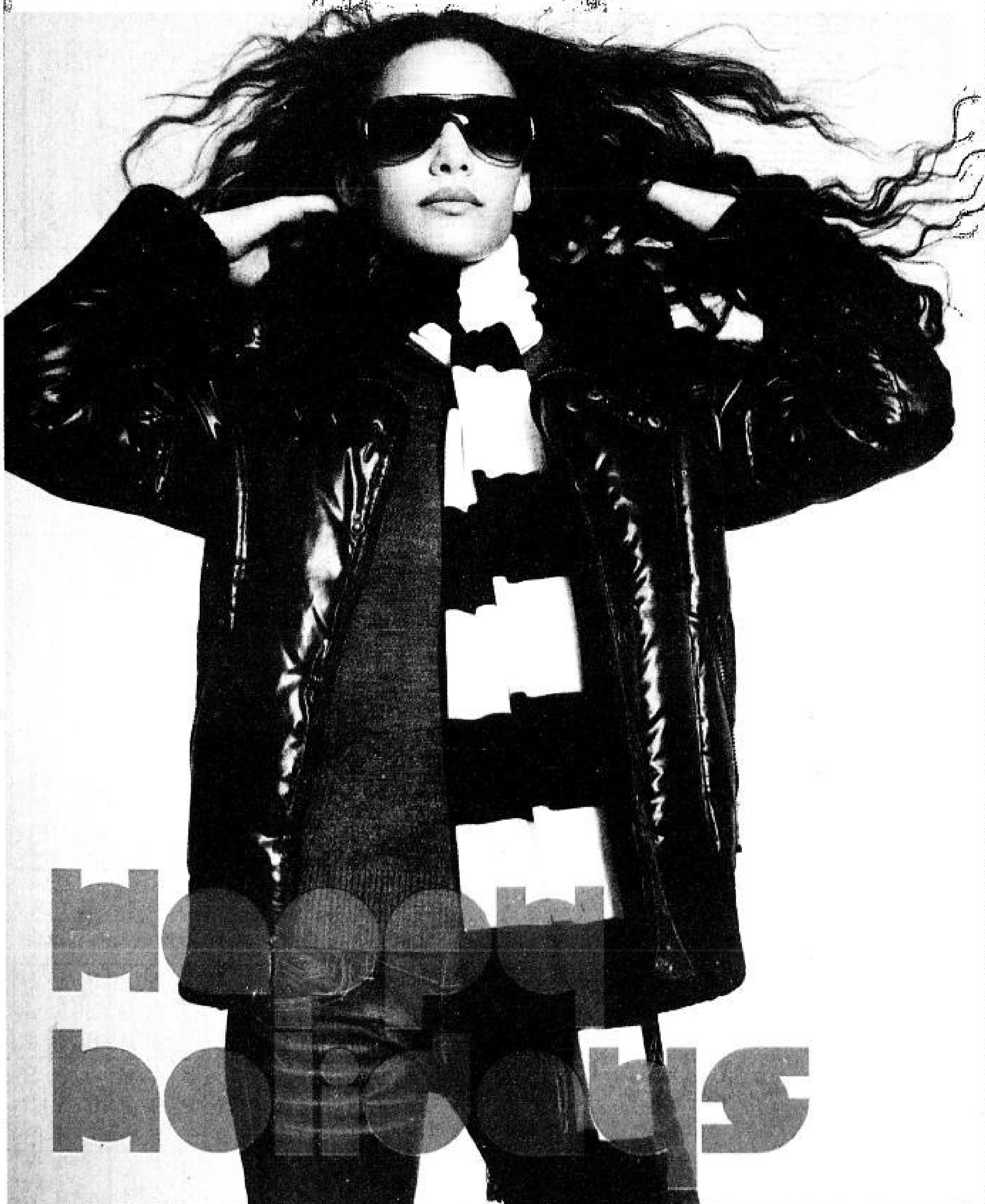
ALABANG Tel. 842-8484 , 796-7979/ 0922 - 8080716
MAKATI BEL - AIR Tel. 751-6140 / 0917 - 9649828
SM FAIRVIEW Tel. 939 - 1105 / 0906 - 4765304
GODIVA
Skin Station

WHAT'S ON
AT ROBINSONS
Move to the groove of ABS-CBN's famous Amboy hottie.
GERALD ANDERSON
ROBINSONS Malls
www.robinsonsmalls.com



Did you know?
Rock and Roll became big in the 50's.
Introduced in 1951. Like Rock and Roll, Cream Corn Starch is still a big favorite.
Also available: Cream ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR

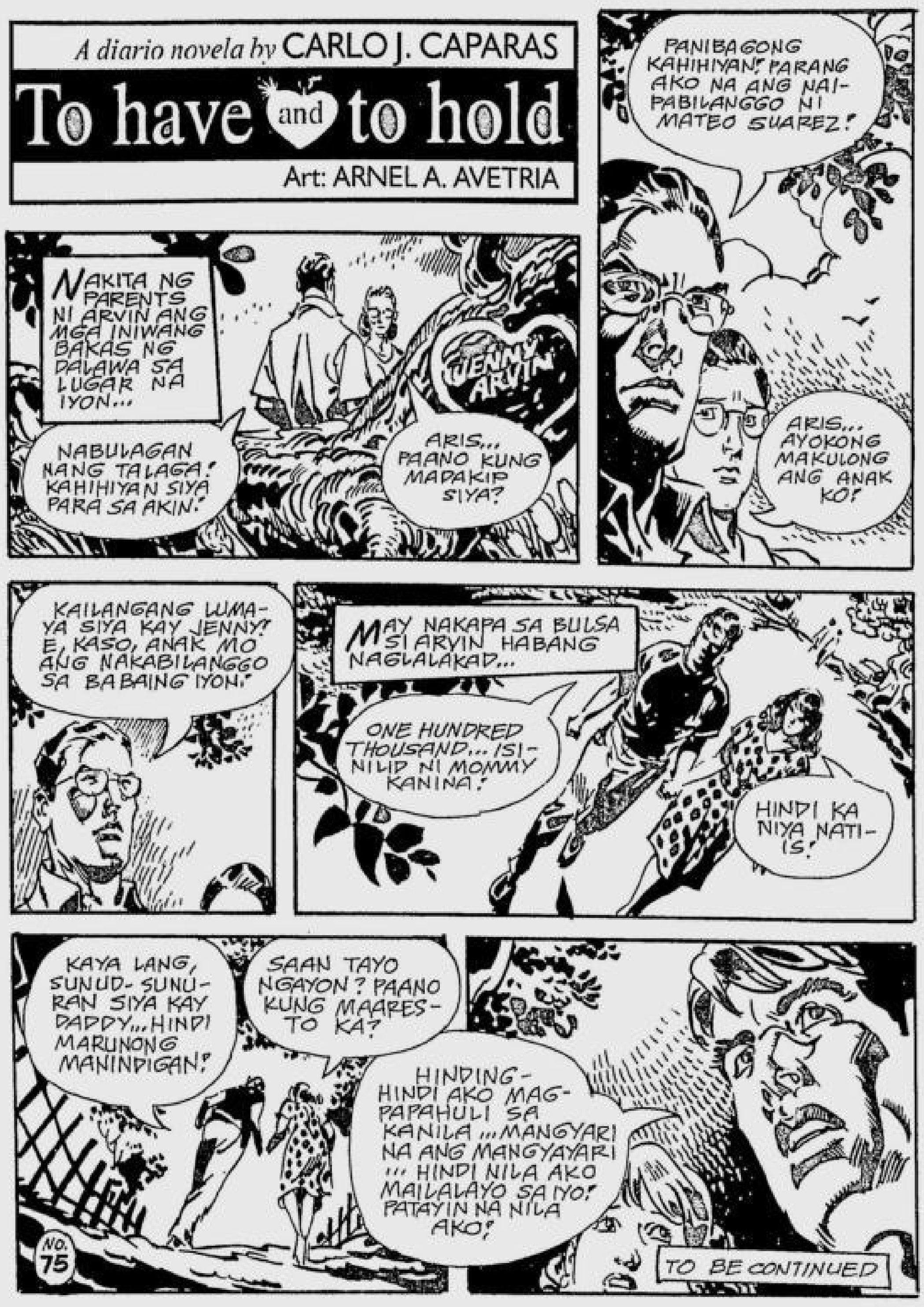


GIORDANO
ANNIVERSARY
SALE
30% OFF
ON NEW ARRIVALS
NOV 29 - DEC 2
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4235 Series of 2007
beyond basic
FASHION SHOW
Directed by
AUDIE ESPINO
of Runway Productions
7:15 PM
NOV 30, 2007
MUSIC HALL
SM MALL OF ASIA
SM Mall of Asia • SM City, North Edsa • SM City, The Block • SM Centerpoint • SM Megamall A & B • SM Bacoor • SM Southmall • SM Fairview • SM Manila • SM Sucat • SM Valenzuela • The Podium • Harrison Plaza
Glorietta • TriNoma • Rockwell, Power Plant Mall • Shoppesville • Alabang Town Center • Sta. Lucia Grand Mall • Robinson's Metro East • Festival Supermall • SM Batangas • Pavillion Mall, Biñan, Laguna
Robinson's Lipa • Stern Mall, Ilocos Sur • SM Baguio • SM Marilao • SM Pampanga • SM Clark • NE Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan • Robinson's Place, Bacolod City • Mindpro Citimall, Zamboanga City
CSI La Union • CSI Dagupan City • Chimes Davao • SM City Cebu City • Ayala Center Cebu City • SM Cagayan de Oro City • Limketkai Cagayan de Oro City • SM Davao • Robinsons Midtown

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

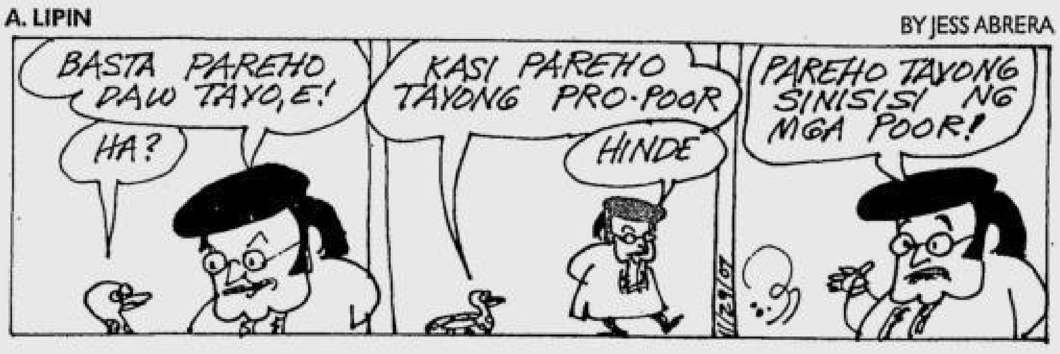
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


PANIBAGONG KAHIHIYAN! PARANG AKO NA ANG NAIPABILANGGO NI MATEO SUAREZ!
NAKITA NG PARENTS NI ARVIN ANG MGA INIWANG BAKAS NG DALAWA SA LUGAR NA IYON...
JENNY ARVIN
NABULAGAN NANG TALAGA! KAHIHIYAN SIYA PARA SA AKIN!
ARIS... PAANO KUNG MADAKIP SIYA?
ARIS... AYOKONG MAKULONG ANG ANAK KO!
KAILANGANG LUMAYA SIYA KAY JENNY! E, KASO, ANAK MO ANG NAKABILANGGO SA BABAING IYON!
MAY NAKAPA SA BULSA SI ARVIN HABANG NAGLALAKAD...
ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND... ISINILIP NI MOMMY KANINA!
HINDI KA NIYA NATIIS!
KAYA LANG, SUNUD-SUNURAN SIYA KAY DADDY... HINDI MARUNONG MANINDIGAN!
SAAN TAYO NGAYON? PAANO KUNG MAARESTO KA?
HINDING-HINDI AKO MAGPAPAHULI SA KANILA... MANGYARI NA ANG MANGYAYARI ... HINDI NILA AKO MAILALAYO SA IYO! PATAYIN NA NILA AKO!
NO. 75
TO BE CONTINUED

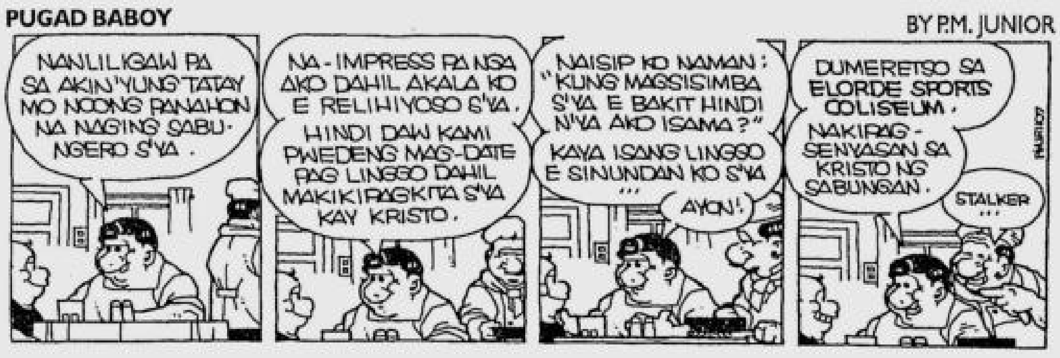
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BASTA PAREHO DAW TAYO, E!
HA?
KASI PAREHO TAYONG PRO-POOR
HINDE
PAREHO TAYONG SINISISI NG MGA POOR!

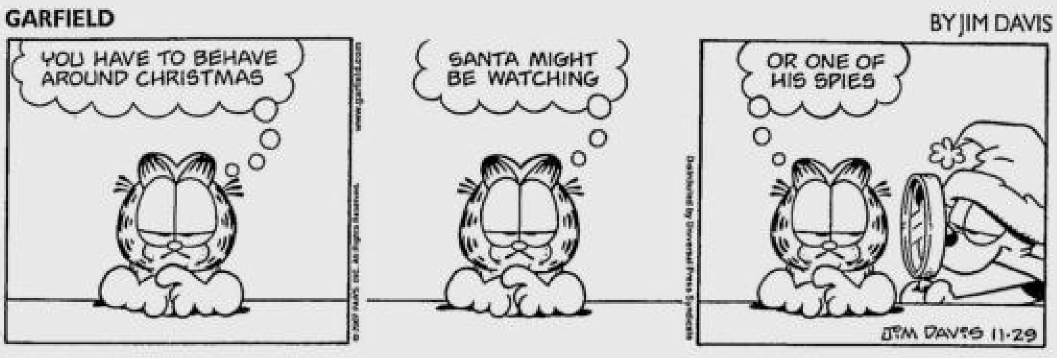
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NANLILIGAW PA SA AKIN 'YUNG TATAY MO NOONG PANAHON NA NAGING SABUNGERO S'YA.
NA-IMPRESS PA NGA AKO DAHIL AKALA KO E RELIHIYOSO S'YA.
HINDI DAW KAMI PWEDENG MAG-DATE PAG LINGGO DAHIL MAKIKIPAGKITA S'YA KAY KRISTO.
NAISIP KO NAMAN: "KUNG MAGSISIMBA S'YA E BAKIT HINDI N'YA AKO ISAMA?"
KAYA ISANG LINGGO E SINUNDAN KO S'YA ...
AYON!
DUMERETSO SA ELORDE SPORTS COLISEUM.
NAKIPAG-SENYASAN SA KRISTO NG SABUNGAN.
STALKER ...

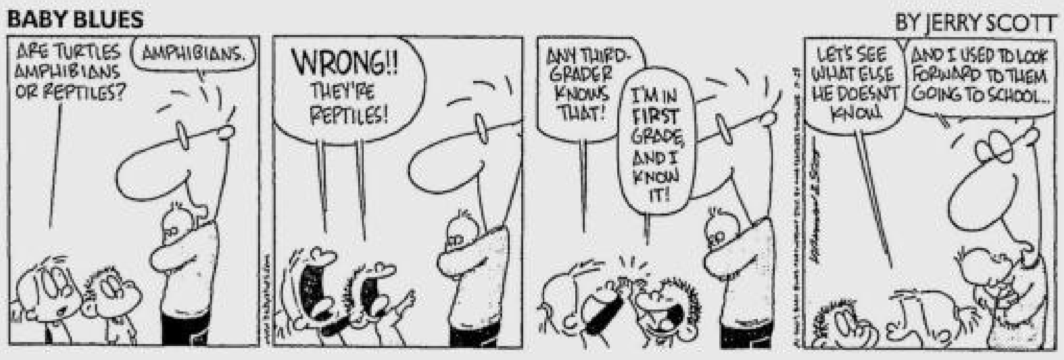
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


YOU HAVE TO BEHAVE AROUND CHRISTMAS
SANTA MIGHT BE WATCHING
OR ONE OF HIS SPIES
JIM DAVIS 11-29

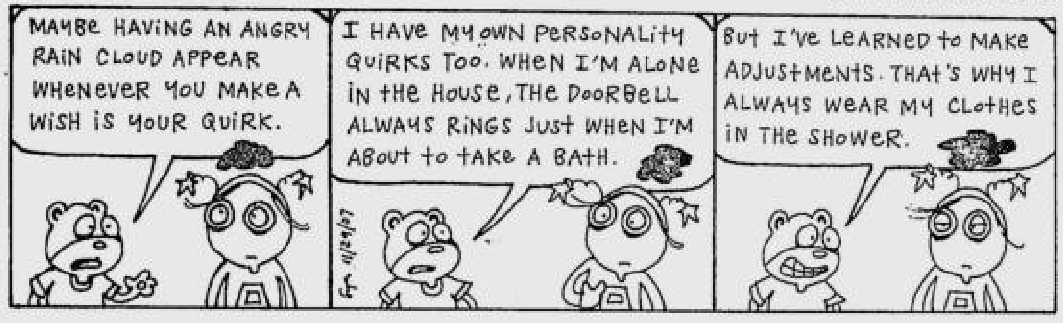
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ARE TURTLES AMPHIBIANS OR REPTILES?
AMPHIBIANS.
WRONG!! THEY'RE REPTILES!
ANY THIRD-GRADER KNOWS THAT!
I'M IN FIRST GRADE, AND I KNOW IT!
LET'S SEE WHAT ELSE HE DOESN'T KNOW.
AND I USED TO LOOK FORWARD TO THEM GOING TO SCHOOL...

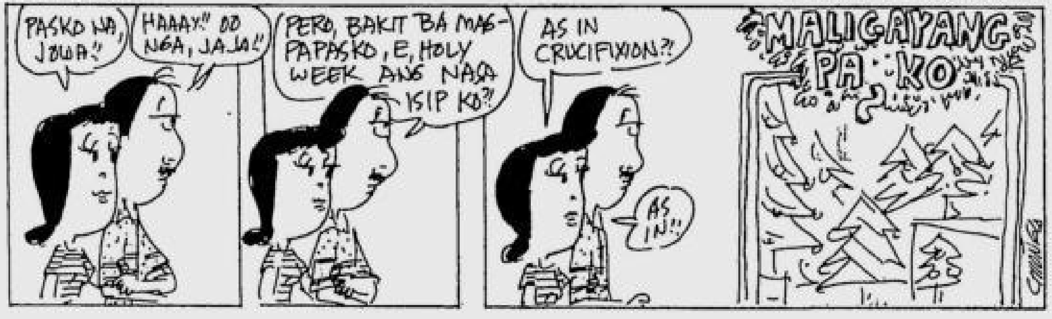
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


MAYBE HAVING AN ANGRY RAIN CLOUD APPEAR WHENEVER YOU MAKE A WISH IS YOUR QUIRK.
I HAVE MY OWN PERSONALITY QUIRKS TOO. WHEN I'M ALONE IN THE HOUSE, THE DOORBELL ALWAYS RINGS JUST WHEN I'M ABOUT TO TAKE A BATH.
BUT I'VE LEARNED TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS. THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS WEAR MY CLOTHES IN THE SHOWER.

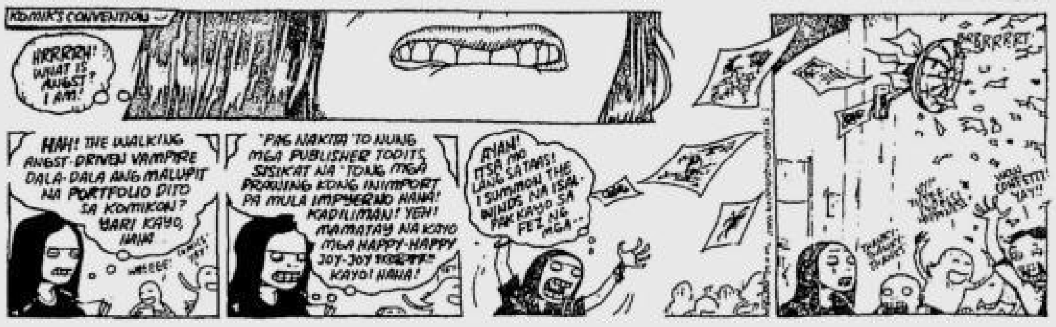
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PASKO NA, JOWA!!
HAAAY!! OO NGA, JAJA!!
PERO, BAKIT BA MAGPAPASKO, E, HOLY WEEK ANG NASA ISIP KO?!
AS IN CRUCIFIXION?!
AS IN!!
MALIGAYANG PA-KO

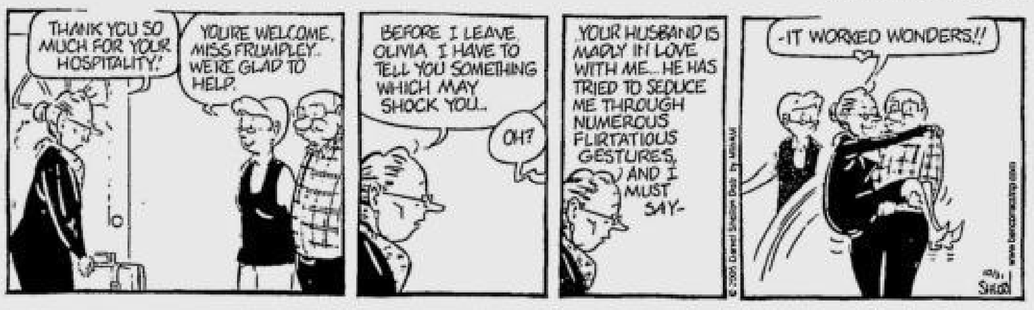
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KOMIKS CONVENTION
HRRRRH! WHAT IS ANGST? I AM!
HAH! THE WALKING ANGST-DRIVEN VAMPIRE DALA-DALA ANG MALUPIT NA PORTFOLIO DITO SA KOMIKON? YARI KAYO, HAHA!
"PAG NAKITA 'TO NUNG MGA PUBLISHER TODITS SISIKAT NA 'TONG MGA PRAWING KONG ININPORT PA MULA IMPYERNO HAHA! KADILIMAN! YEH! MAMATAY NA KAYO MGA HAPPY-HAPPY JOY-JOY KAYO! HAHA!
AYAN! ITSA MO LANG SA TAAS! I SUMMON THE WINDS NA ISAMPAK KAYO SA FEZ NG MGA...
BRRRRET
WOW CONFETTI! YAY!!

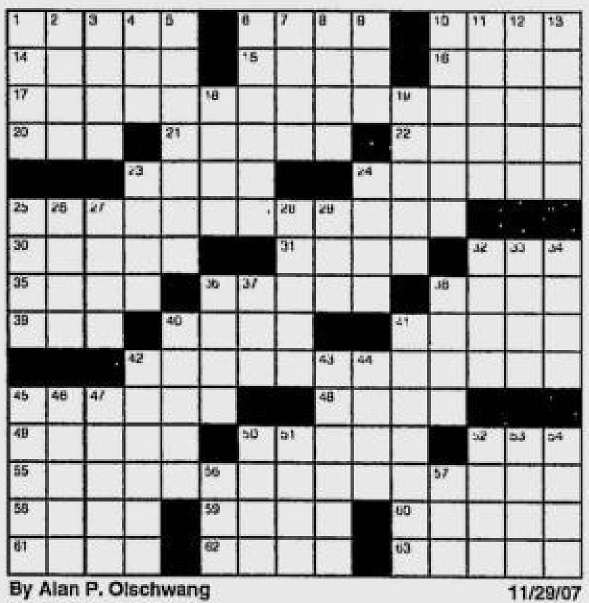
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY!
YOU'RE WELCOME, MISS FRUMPLEY. WE'RE GLAD TO HELP.
BEFORE I LEAVE OLIVIA, I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING WHICH MAY SHOCK YOU...
OH?
YOUR HUSBAND IS MADLY IN LOVE WITH ME... HE HAS TRIED TO SEDUCE ME THROUGH NUMEROUS FLIRTATIOUS GESTURES, AND I MUST SAY-
-IT WORKED WONDERS!!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Chocolate substitute
6 Slammer or clink
10 River of New York City
14 Man from Muscat
15 Forum wear
16 Picture of a physician?
17 Start of a quip
20 Pop the question
21 Indiana pro
22 AWOL part
23 Not of the cloth
24 Electric eye, e.g.
25 Part 2 of quip
30 Aggrandize
31 Chits
32 Cal. abbr.
35 Order to a broker
36 Claw
38 Humdinger
39 Letters that bang
40 Astronomer Sagan
41 Steady starer
42 Part 3 of quip
45 Lasso
48 Goddess of discord
49 Medicinal plants
50 Want too much
52 Masseuse's place
55 End of quip
58 Lived hand to mouth
59 Lost traction
60 Perch
61 Highland loch
62 Sicilian volcano
63 Rebellion of 1857-58



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
11/29/07

DOWN
1 Closing passage
2 Writer Oz
3 Relative status
4 Lennon's love
5 Cameo role
6 Wall covering
7 Lug
8 Borodin's prince
9 Brit. flyboys
10 Range
11 Puccini pieces
12 Military tribute
13 "Saint Maybe" novelist
18 Couple
19 Dog's bane
23 Droop
24 Avoid
25 Examine
26 Cart-pulling pair
27 Beer ingredient
28 Novelist Cather
29 Court
32 Greek drink
33 Pitch symbol
34 Surf partner?
36 Like a drumhead
37 Circle segment
38 Iron pumper's pride
40 Seashore
41 Eric Clapton's axes
42 Gives in
43 Sagebrush State
44 Quarry
45 Make behind time
46 Similar
47 Silver screen parts
50 Cornishman or Welshman, e.g.
51 Norse god
52 Cease
53 Monterrey money
54 Bohemian
56 Res.
57 Enemy

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	D	A	M	■	M	A	S	C	■	O	B	E	S	E
S	E	R	A	■	E	L	L	A	■	R	E	S	A	T
T	A	N	G	■	S	C	A	M	■	A	R	A	B	S
I	D	O	N	T	H	A	V	E	A	C	L	U	E	■
■	■	■	O	W	E	N	■	R	U	L	E	■	■	■
S	T	O	L	I	D	■	A	A	R	E	■	M	C	S
P	E	R	I	L	■	I	R	M	A	■	S	O	O	T
I	T	S	A	L	L	G	R	E	E	K	T	O	M	E
C	O	O	S	■	I	N	O	N	■	A	R	D	E	N
A	N	N	■	S	C	O	W	■	P	R	E	S	T	O
■	■	■	S	T	I	R	■	G	A	M	E	■	■	■
■	I	M	T	O	T	A	L	L	Y	A	T	S	E	A
S	N	E	E	R	■	M	O	A	T	■	C	A	R	L
S	T	A	R	K	■	U	N	D	O	■	A	L	G	A
T	O	N	E	S	■	S	E	E	N	■	R	E	O	S

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11/28/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very active and dynamic in life. You don't sit on the sidelines. In fact, once you're involved in anything, you can provoke others to action. You make shrewd observations with acerbic wit. Many of you have the power to influence others through your work or your social activities. The year ahead could involve some major changes, perhaps as significant as around 1999.

Birthdate of: C.S. Lewis, author; Joel Coen, director/producer; Garry Shandling, comedian.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Romance can be disappointing today. Similarly, parents might be concerned about children. Don't get carried away; this disappointment is brief, plus there is some confusion here.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have to be patient with parents, bosses and family members. Whatever you're doing, it's as if you have Vaseline on your lens. You're not seeing things clearly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Sit back and listen objectively when others are speaking to you today. Someone could be stringing you along or trying to sell you a bill of goods. Caution!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's a poor day for major expenditures or transactions. For some reason, you don't have all the facts. You're not seeing things clearly.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): In discussions with partners, you're inclined to be a victim of your own wishful thinking. Instead of seeing reality, you see things as you want them to be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Go slowly with everything you're doing. Make no assumptions. Don't be quick to take offense if others disappoint you. Misunderstandings are rampant. (However, deception is possible.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might feel disappointed by a friend or group today. Don't get carried away with this, and don't overreact. Misunderstandings are likely everywhere today. Be cool.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If your boss, teacher or parent asks you to do something, make very sure you understand what this person expects from you. Discussions are confusing today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't worry if you become disillusioned about politics or religion today. Wait a few days to see how you look at things then. It will likely change.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Double-check your dealings with banks and your debtors. Make sure you know what's going on. Make sure you know what is expected of you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Because you might want to avoid a confrontation with someone, you could be tempted to lie. Don't do this. This will only make things worse. Just wait two days.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be tolerant about confusion that occurs at work. These could be honest mistakes, however, someone could be toying with the truth. If you think something fishy is going on, it is!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

9	1							7
4	7		9				3	
					5	2		
	4				9	1		
		3	2				5	
		8	6					
	3				7		4	8
1							6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/29

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	8	4	3	1	2	9	6	5
1	6	2	8	5	9	3	7	4
5	9	3	7	6	4	8	1	2
3	7	5	6	4	8	1	2	9
8	4	1	2	9	7	6	5	3
6	2	9	1	3	5	7	4	8
4	5	8	9	7	6	2	3	1
9	3	7	5	2	1	4	8	6
2	1	6	4	8	3	5	9	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/28

Pizza & pasta party for RP SEAG team

THE COUNTRY'S top athletes were treated to Pizza Hut's Pinaka-Pizza.

THE COUNTRY'S TOP ATHLETES were treated to Pizza Hut's Pinaka-Pizza in preparation for the 24th Southeast Games (SEAG) to be held December 6-15 in Thailand.

The pizza and pasta party was held for the members of the Philippine team after the First Friday Thanksgiving Mass at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Jr., Philippine Olympic Committee president, expressed his gratitude to Pizza Hut for the treat. He said it made the athletes feel special and boosted their morale.

A total of 178 gold and 91 silver medalists in the SEAG comprise the bulk of the 274 athletes along with five Asiad medal-winners in taekwondo, billiards and boxing.

Elaine Guzman, Pizza Hut vice president for marketing, said they were always looking forward to hosting the nation's athletes, having sponsored annual pizza parties for the Philippine team.

She said they were glad Filipino athletes enjoyed their products. She added that Pizza Hut constantly made sure it had a wide selection of flavors to suit different tastes.

Pizza Hut, she said, was proud to treat Filipino athletes to their favorite pizza and pasta before competing in the SEAG (www.pizzahut.com.ph).

Beef & butter buffet

Reggie Aspiras is conducting the following cooking classes:

NOV. 30—TENDERLOIN (all new): Ultimate Beef Wellington; Tenderloin Steaks Korean Style; Grilled Tenderloin with Cream Cheese Beets, Grilled on the Spot with 4 sauces—horseradish, mustard, morel and brown garlic; sides

Dec. 1—Butter Buffet '07 (all new, highly recommended for the Holidays): Roast Beef, cooked on the Spot; Grilled Steaks and Seafood served with an assortment of delicious butter-based sauces—garlic herb butter, tomato butter, truffle butter, blue cheese butter, brown butter, mushroom butter, honey mustard butter, sage butter, balsamic butter, shallot butter, charmoula, horseradish butter; sides; Ingenious Ways of Cooking Pasta in Brown Butter, Buttered Potatoes, Bacon Salad with Butter Vinaigrette; dessert-Butter Rum Cake with Butter Rum Sauce

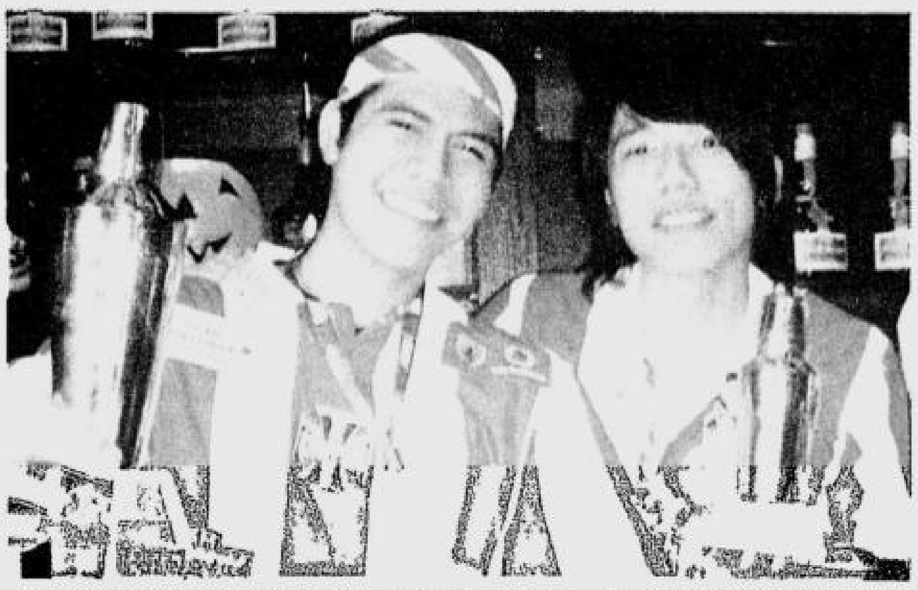
Dec. 3—Sweet Holiday Treats (all new): My Best Cinnamon Roll Recipe with Tiramisu Cream, Soft Fluffy Ensaimada with Butter Cream and 3 Cheeses, Limoncello Butter Cake, Vanilla Bean Butter Cookies, Yummy Chocolate Chip Cookies, Delectable Valrona Crinkle Cookie

Dec. 5—Easy yet Festive Chicken Recipes (all new): Galantina My Way with Mushroom Kalamansi Gravy and Tomato Shallot Jam, Whole Chicken in Miso Sauce, Sesame Steamed Chicken, Black Pepper Chicken, Creamed Apple Chicken, Roast Chicken with Creamed Mushrooms, Yummy Pan-Fried Chicken with Dried Mango Sauce, Japanese Fried Chicken with Sweet Red Bell Pepper Sauce

Holiday Class Schedules are out. Call 928-9296 or 9273008.

Last regular classes

DOROTHY'S COOKING SCHOOL WILL HOLD her last regular classes Thursday and Saturday. The class on Nov. 27 will highlight the different ways to prepare roast chicken with marinades like herbs and honey mustard-with peaches, with grapes, garlic, etc. The Dec. 1 morning class will be on different types of *pancit* from scratch such as *palabok*, *lomi*, *habhab* and many more. In the afternoon class, different popular native *kakanin* like *suman sa lihiya*, *biko*, *halayang ube* and many more will be highlighted. For the holidays, the school will accept orders for special cakes and pasta (721-7735). The school in New Manila, Quezon City is owned by cookbook author Dorothy Ferreria.



MATTHEW Burgos, champion and Nick Wu, 1st runner up, in the Asia-Pacific Bartending Championships in Beijing, China

Pinoy wins regional bartending contest

MATTHEW BURGOS, A TGI FRIDAY'S BARTENDER AT THE Robinson's Galleria branch, was chosen grand champion in the Asia-Pacific Bartending Championships in Beijing, China.

He bested nine other contestants from different countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Burgos trained under Eric Martinez, who was named World's Greatest Bartender in the World Bartending Championships in Las Vegas in March. Martinez is from TGI Friday's Glorietta branch.

The Beijing competition had two parts—compulsory and freestyle. In compulsory, contestants underwent a series of activities to test their mastery of bar mechanics, including technical knowledge, skill and accuracy. The freestyle segment involved "flair bartending" skills—tossing, balancing, mixing and flipping cocktails and bottles in the air.

In March, Burgos will compete in the World Championships in Las Vegas.

THE CONSUMER

Truth in pricing

By Linda B. Bolido

SOME RESTAURANTS MAY THINK THEY are being clever, that customers will not notice the deception they are doing.

But the game is up. Increasingly, we are getting complaints about how servings in restaurants are shrinking although prices remain the same.

Apparently, worried about how clients will react if they raise their prices, more and more restaurants are resorting to reducing portions without changing rates.

The ruse is not working. People who are paying the same amount for less food do feel a little hollowness in their stomachs at the end of a meal and are alerted to what is happening.

It is the same with the hot pandesal. Do bakers really think customers do not notice that the old fist-sized pandesal is now as big as a doughnut hole?

Have these restaurants forgotten that honesty is always the best policy?

Customers do know what is going on in the world. They, too, feel the impact of rising costs and will understand if restaurants find it necessary to raise their prices.

And, if a restaurant's food and service are really good, customers will remain loyal.

Consumers do not only need truth in advertising. They also need truth in pricing.

Better to give …

Many nongovernment organizations have long started to talk about the so-called "donor fatigue."

What the term means is that many groups are finding it harder and harder every year to raise money for their various projects because people do not seem as willing to give as in the past.

But apparently that is not a problem with the PGMA Charity Foundation. It seems to have more than enough for itself that it continues to give away money.

From number 0915-8731255: "Your cell number had won second prize worth P500,000 in (PGMA) Charity Foundation drawn (sic) last Nov. 23, 2007 NCR/DTI Permit #2904. Pls. call me now. Atty …"

We do not want to mention the name given to protect innocent namesakes.

Again I ask the question: how come nobody has yet to win the first prize in the foundation's raffles? All the text messages that have been forwarded to me inform the recipients that they have won second prize.

The suspense is killing me. Will the first prize winners please come forward and identify themselves? I also like to know how much is the first prize.

Feedback

Reader Marcelo L. Tecson says the problem of alleged over-billing in service charge mentioned in last week's column was minor compared "to the wanton overcharging" in value-added tax (VAT).

He is petitioning the government to scrap what, he says, constitutes double taxation.

Moreover, he believes VAT is a heavy financial burden for ordinary wage-earning Filipinos. He suggests that the government comes up with measures that would shift the tax burden to the rich and spare ordinary citizens.

I am sure Tecson is not alone in feeling this way.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

BBQ Pork (above) and Cheeseburger

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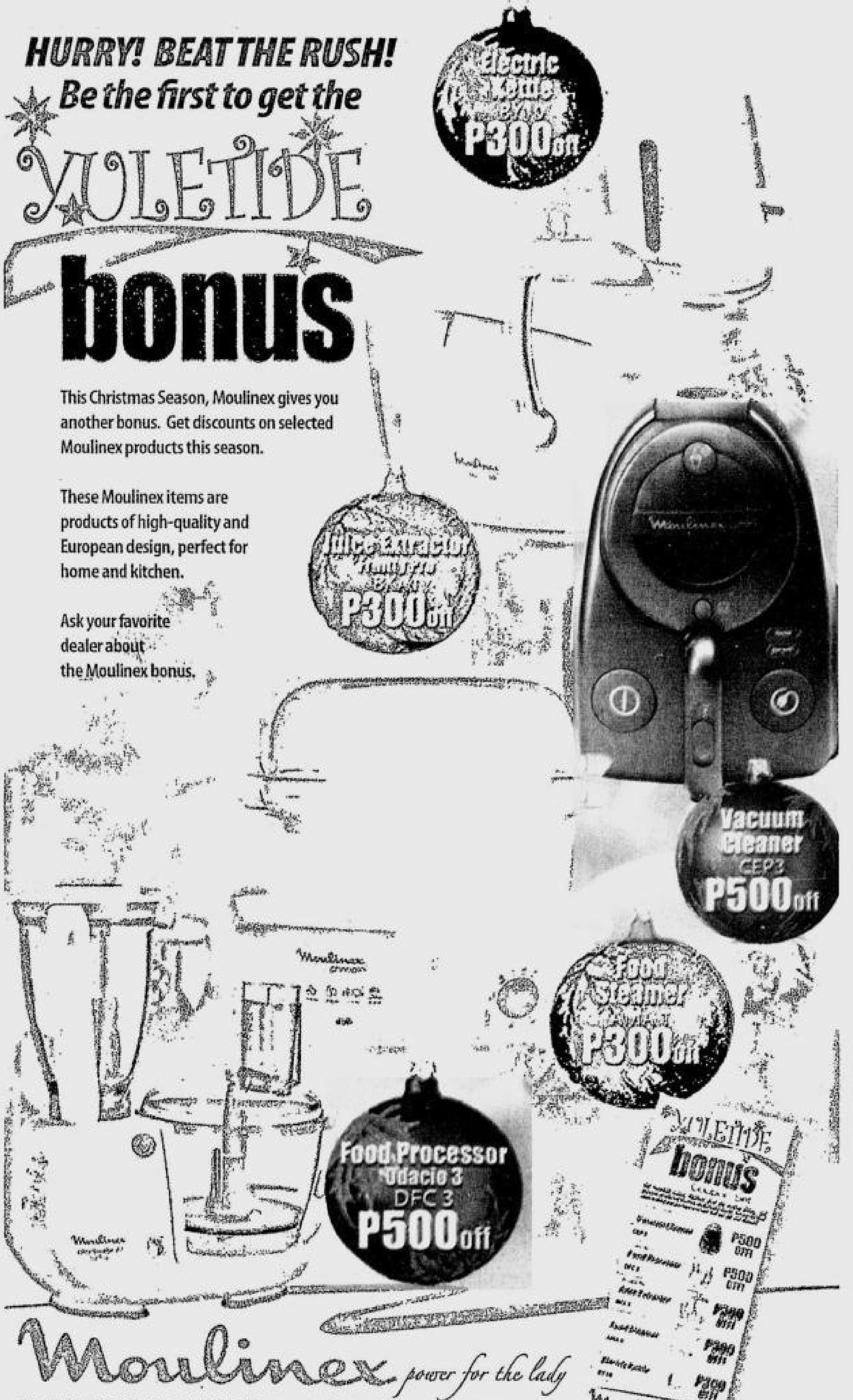

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Talking turkey

From page E1

pending on where you come from.

Like the heritage turkey, native chickens have tougher meat because of the exercise they get from walking and running around. But the deeply flavorful meat makes up for the toughness.

And you can be sure no antibiotics are used that may mess up your own body in the long run.

When I saw the turkeys at the Coyote Run Farm, I couldn't resist calling out to them in their language. They approached me and talked turkey.

That left the group with me and other visitors who were there for the so-called "Farm Crawl," a tour of farms, in stitches.

Wake-up call

So when did I learn to speak turkey? From friends in Cagayan de Oro who spoke turkey to wake up the priests at Xavier University.

A pen of turkeys was near the Jesuits' living area. On some mornings, friends would creep quietly because any noise would send the turkeys into a frenzy.

Then somebody would stand up like an orchestra conductor, raise his hands, do his gobble-gobble talk. The turkeys followed suit, building up to a crescendo as the "conductor" thrashed wildly about.

My friends would scamper quietly away leaving the turkeys screaming and, I suppose, the Jesuits wondering what all the ruckus was about.

We would laugh about their turkey story in the afternoon before the evening class.

Recently, I tested my turkey talk again. In Paoay, Ilocos Norte, we stopped at the *abel* weavers. In the backyard was a female turkey or hen so I made my gobble-gobble act. A male turkey or a tom strutted behind her. Its feathers were spread out, its head was buried in its red wattle and it was louder than me.

A TURKEY tom in Paoay, Ilocos Norte

Clearly, it was ready for a fight because the back feathers were fanning wildly. Since I do not know how turkeys attack, I ran inside the van.

The fowl headed toward the van in attack mode talking more loudly. Then it returned to the hen. The tease that I am, I gobble-gobbled again and the tom approached the van in a fighting mood.

The coward that I also am, I sang to let the tom know I was human and had no designs on the hen. The hen finally left and the tom followed.

My grandmother would disapprove of my being *sutil* or a tease. If she knew, she would certainly let me have the stick she used to discipline naughty grandchildren.

I did not know yet how to talk turkey when she had a live one prepared for our Christmas table. My brother JP remembered that he never ventured near the kitchen backdoor where the turkey was tied.

I think the turkey knew it would end up on the dining table because it attacked anyone who came near.

Lola taught me how to cook the turkey when Christmas eves started to be marked at my house. She said the big bird should be roasted without any cover then, about 30 minutes before the set cooking time, it should be covered with a loose blanket of aluminum foil so it did not become too brown.

My aunt Milagros taught me how to do my *lola*'s bread stuffing and the gravy. *Lola* also said the bones should be boiled a day later and the broth, with some loose meat floating around, used for *arroz caldo* or rice porridge.

Having turkey for Christmas is a tradition older than my grandmother judging from the name of stuffed turkey in recipe books, Pavo Embuchado. But the traditional technique is different from merely roasting the bird.

Nora Daza, in "Let's Cook with Nora" (Bookman Printing House, 1979), marinates the turkey then boils it.

In "Philippine Cuisine: A Country's Heritage" (Monterey Farms Corporation, 1995), the recipe has the turkey marinated for an hour then browned in oil. The turkey is placed in a steamer. The liquid mixture consists of sautéed garlic and onions and the marinade. The stuffing can be *arroz valenciana*, *arroz* with *hamon* or *bringhe*.

When we went to Bulacan to shoot the Pavo Embuchado for that book, we asked Dez Bautista, cultural anthropologist from the province, to provide the turkey.

We were aghast to find the turkey still walking when we arrived. Bautista had taken it to heart that we would have authentic Filipino recipes so even the turkey had to be authentic, a native breed from one of the farms.

It took all day to get the fowl ready for the shoot. Plucking out the feathers took hours and produced goose (or is it turkey?) pimples. There was no time to cook it so a blowtorch was used.

Maybe this year I will do the turkey the traditional Pavo Embuchado way.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

Pavo Embuchado

(Adapted from "Philippine Cuisine: A Country's Heritage")

2-3 k native turkey (about 5 kilos for imported variety)
2 tbsp calamansi juice or juice from 2 pieces of *dayap* (native lime)
2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
1 tbsp salt
Cooking oil, enough to deep-fry the turkey
1 tsp garlic, chopped
¼ c onions, chopped
1 c chicken broth
1 piece *dayap*, juiced
1 bottle beer

Clean the turkey.

Make a marinade of the *calamansi* juice, Worcestershire sauce and the salt. Marinate the turkey in the mixture for one hour. Remove the turkey after that and set aside. Reserve marinade.

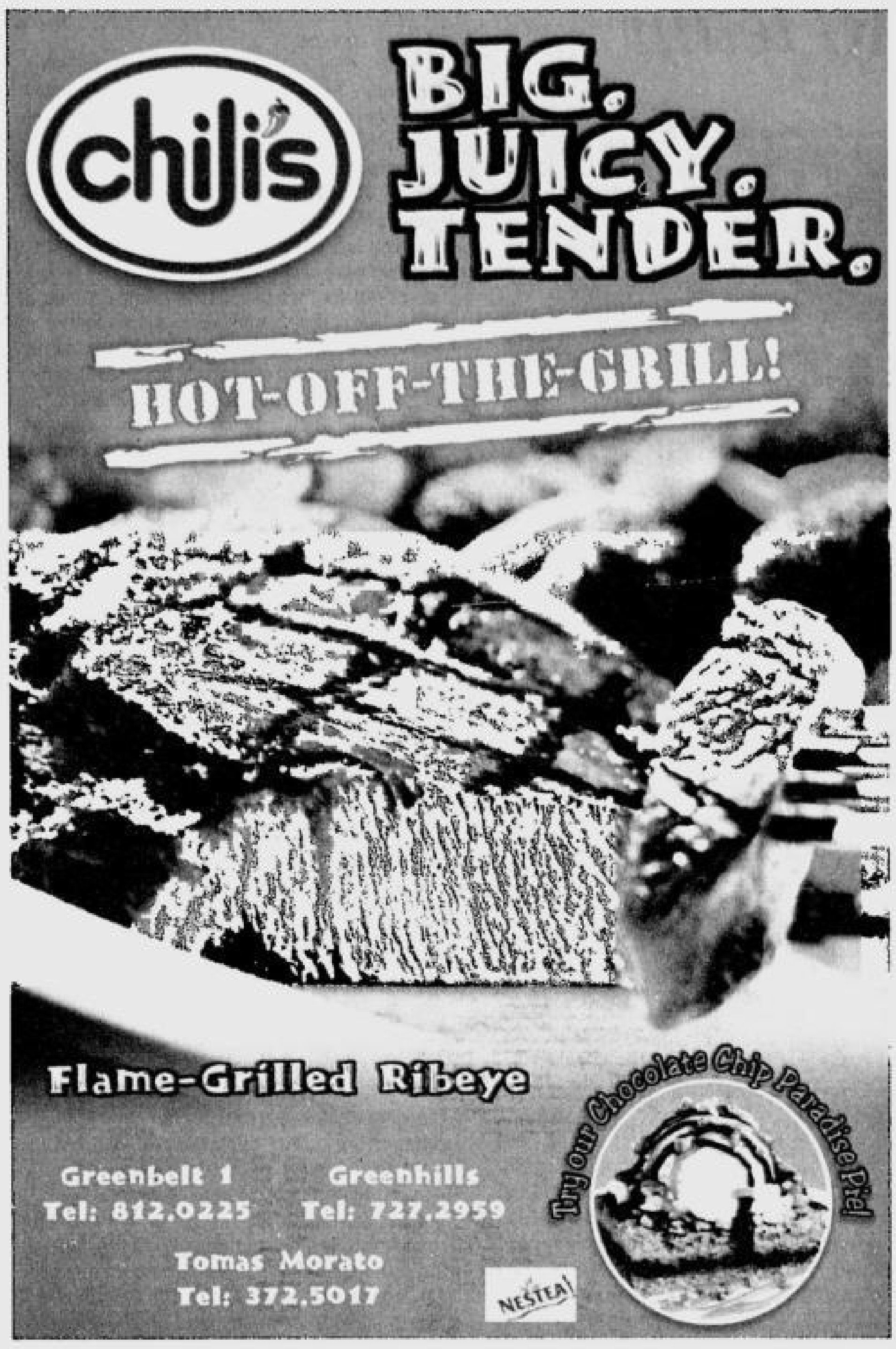
Heat the oil in a pan and deep-fry the turkey. Set turkey aside.

Reduce the amount of oil in the pan and sauté the garlic and onions.

Place the sautéed garlic and onions in the lower part of the steamer together with the marinade, chicken broth, *dayap* juice and beer.

Place the turkey in the upper part of the steamer. Make sure that the liquid does not touch the turkey. Steam until the turkey is cooked.

For the stuffing, e-mail me.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CLASSROOM I
Dec. 1 9am–1:30 pm BASIC CAKES AND ICING FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison P1,500
Dec 1 2–5pm BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison P1,500
Dec 1 6–10pm SPECIAL COURSE ON COOKIES by: Heny Sison P1,500
Dec. 3 9am–1:30 pm.MAMON GALORE ! by: Heny Sison P1,200
Dec 3 2 – 5:00 pm ROLLS GALORE ! by: Heny Sison P1,200
Dec 3 6–10pm CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES by: Heny Sison P1,500
Dec 4 9a m–12nn HEALTHY GOURMET – PARTY & FAMILY TREATS P1,800 (Baked Pastas and Casserole Dishes) by: Jacqueline H. Alleje
Dec 4 1–4:30pm EUROPEAN SWEET AND SAVORY TARTS by: Jacqueline H. Alleje P1,900
Dec 4 5:30–9pm CHRISTMAS COOKIES FOR THE HOME AND GIVE AWAYS by: JH Alleje P1,750
Dec. 5 9am–3pm CHRISTMAS FINALE, EASY CHRISTMAS DESSERTS by: Patty Loanzon P1,500
Dec. 5 4–9pm CUPCAKELICIOUS by: Carrie Madrid P1,600
Dec. 6 10am –4pm JAPANESE NOODLE CLASS by: Chef Koichi Kondo P2,000
Dec 7 9am–1pm JAPANESE RICE TOPPINGS by: Chef Koichi Kondo P1,700
Dec 7 1:30 – 5pm SUSHI CLASS by: Chef Koichi Kondo P1,700
Dec. 7,9,11,13 6–9pm COOKING WITH CHEF ED P800 per class(Special 4-Evening Promo Class) by: Chef Ed Quimson
Dec. 8 9:30 am–4:30pm DESIGNER CAKES by: Chef Vicki Villanueva P2,850
Dec. 8-9 6-10pm NEW CLASS ! SOUP AND BREAD WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison P3,000
Dec. 9 9am –3pm TECHNIQUES OF FINE COOKING I P2,750 (Featuring Chicken) by: Chef Vicki Villanueva
Dec. 10 10am-4pm LET'S BOTTLE UP ! by: Chef Juan Carlo Estagle P1,500
Dec. 10 6–10pm FRESH PASTA WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli P2,500
Dec. 11 9am –12 nn HOME MADE ICE CREAM AND DESSERTS by: JH Alleje P1,850
Dec 11 1–4pm HOLIDAY TREATS AND BUFFET SPREADS by: JH Alleje P1,950
Dec. 11 1-7pm BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca P2,500
Dec.12 9am–4pm BAKING I by: Heny Sison P1,500
Dec 12 5–9pm BROWNIE COLLECTION by: Heny Sison P1,500
Dec 12 1–6pm SPECIAL TABLE AND FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca P3,000
Dec.13 9am–5pm SECRETS NO MORE ! by: Heny Sison P3,000
Dec. 14 9am–12nn DELI IN A BOTTLE (Let's Bottle Up 2 !) by: Chef Juan Carlo Estagle P1,500
Dec. 14 1–5pm PRESERVING THE HARVEST by: Chef Juan Carlo Estagle P1,800
Dec 15 10am–3pm NEW CLASS ! CUPTAIL CLASS by: Carrie Madrid P1,650
Dec. 15 10am–4pm INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE COOKING by: Chef Koichi Kondo P2,500
Dec 16 9am–4pm PARADE OF PIES, TARTS & CHEESECAKES by: Heny Sison P1,700
Dec. 16 5–9pm JAPANESE MAIN DISHES by: Chef Koichi Kondo P2,500
Dec. 17 10am–4pm REGIONAL ITALIAN DISHES I by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli P2,500
Dec. 17 5–10pm REGIONAL ITALIAN DISHES II by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli P2,500
Dec.18 9am–3pm HAMON & PANDESAL by: Chef Vicki Villanueva P3,000
Dec. 18 5:30–9pm CHRISTMAS FLORAL DESIGNS by: Glenn Remorca P3,000

CLASSROOM II
Dec. 1 10am–4pm FOOD CART VIII (Featuring Chocolate Cake Donuts) by: Chef Vicki P2,650
Dec. 2 10am–4pm HIGH-YIELD CATERING DISHES 3 (w/ participation) by: Chef Sam de Leoz P1,900
Dec 3 10am-4pm ITALIAN PIZZA CLASS by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli P2,500
Dec 3 5–10pm ITALIAN PASTA SAUCES by: Chef Giogio Bucciarelli P2,500
Dec. 4 10am–4pm MEAT PROCESSING I by: Chef Vicki Villanueva P2,800
Dec 4 4:30 – 10:30pm CHARCUTERIE BASICS (SAUSAGE WORKSHOP) by: Chef Vivian Syyap P3,500
Dec. 9 10am–4pm NEW CLASS ! STEAKS AND RIBS WITH SIDINGS P2,550 BARBECUE WORKSHOP 4 by: Chef Sam de Leoz
Dec. 9 5–9pm NEW CLASS ! ALL ABOUT WEDDING FLORALS by: Glenn Remorca P3,000
Dec. 16 10am–4pm QUICK CLASSIC CAFÉ FOOD by: Chef Sam de Leoz P2,000

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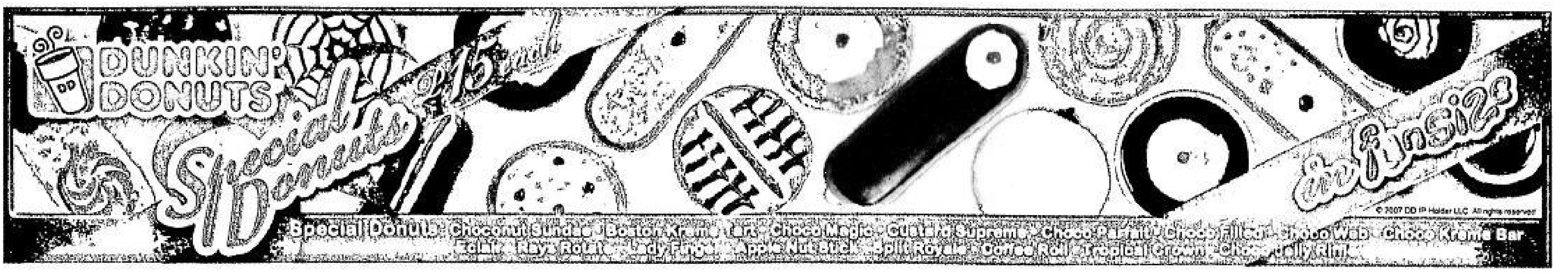
INSIDE
- **What it's like sitting through a nine-hour movie** /F2
- **Evening 'teleseryes' still rule local TV** Viewfinder /F2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FAIR LADIES
KC Concepcion (far left) organized Artists Fair Pilipinas Year 3, held last weekend. She invited friends Richard Gutierrez and Donita Rose, and relatives Gary Valenciano and Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan, to sell second-hand items at the Eastwood Central Plaza. Good pals Fanny Serrano (center) and Christine Bersola-Babao (left) personally manned their booths of clothes and books, respectively. It was for a good cause, KC notes. Main beneficiaries are the mentorship program of Hands On Manila Foundation for 30 public school students and the day care center of Virlanie Foundation for 3- to 7-year-old kids.
PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

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Belated recognition for local horror film

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TWENTY-TWO YEARS AFTER its debut, Elwood Perez's "Silip" is the object of positive reviews in two international web sites.

Although Perez is pleased with the belated recognition, he is also wary of the attention being given his 1985 film, recently released on DVD by British firm Boum/Mondo Macabro.

He told INQUIRER Entertainment that the ideas expressed in "Silip" were "dangerous."

INQUIRER broke the news of the film's international distribution deal last December.

Perez said, "I'm scared it might offend viewers with delicate sensibilities."

According to the DVD's liner notes, "Silip" caused an "uproar when it was shown at the Chicago Film Festival [in the 1980s]."

New York Times reviewer Sandra Brennan had commented at that time: "Bloodshed and bouncing bosoms abound in this wretchedly violent and nearly pornographic horror film."

Perez owned up: "It's definitely not for minors or the faint-hearted. But if you're a cinephile, you might find it interesting."

Two international web sites, Twitch and Dvdrama, recently came out with rave reviews.

"It would be foolhardy (or

BELATED/ F2

THE COVER sleeve for "Silip" DVD edition

Int'l ballroom champs due in RP

By Marinel R. Cruz

NICK KOSOVICH, DANCING partner of American actresses Vivica Fox and Tatum O' Neal in the top-rating, Emmy-nominated reality TV show "Dancing with the Stars," will fly to Manila in February to introduce a new category in ballroom dancing competitions called "American Smooth."

The Australian-born Kosovich, whose ballroom costume company LeNique dresses up all the male performers in "Dancing with the Stars," will be coming in with wife Lena Bahcheva. The couple are also dancesport competition champions.

In May 2006, Filipino-American dancer-choreographer Cheryl Burke and her partner, Drew Lachey of the boy band 98 Degrees, bagged the top prize in "Dancing with the Stars." Burke was proclaimed grand champ again in November 2006, along with sportsman Emmit Smith. Burke was in Manila recently for a week-long visit.

According to the website www.dancing-latin.com, American Smooth is one of two categories in American-style ballroom competitions. It features waltz, tango, foxtrot and Viennese waltz.

The Kosovich visit in February will coincide with the first "Philippine StarBall," a ballroom

INT'L/ F2

NICK Kosovich and Lena Bahcheva

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Evening 'teleseryes' still rule local TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

OCTOBER RATINGS FOR TOP GMA-7 programs indicate that its regular productions are topped in popularity by "Marimar" at 40.8, followed by "Mga Mata ni Anghelita" at 34.4 and "Zaido" at 34.1.

The newscast "24 Oras" rated 31.7, followed by "Bitoy's Funniest Videos" at 31.4, "Kakasa Ka Ba sa Grade 5?" at 30.6, "La Vendetta" at 30.4, "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho" at 29.8, and "Tok, Tok, Tok" at 29.7.

This list of popular shows proves that the evening *teleseryes* still lord it over the TV screen, with "Marimar," "Anghelita," "Zaido" and "La Vendetta" scoring high.

Of course, "Marimar's" runaway success is most remarkable but that requires a separate piece to do full justice to (soonest).

Also impressive is the fact that a newscast, "24 Oras," rated so high. Newscasts used to be shunned by quite a number of people, but the high rating of "24 Oras" proves that the nightly news can now be a viewer magnet.

Another notable showing was turned in by the quiz program, "Kakasa Ka Ba sa Grade 5?" With Janno Gibbs as quizmaster. The new show has done better than most other programs with a quiz format.

Finally, Jessica Soho's magazine show, "Kapuso Mo," should be credited for rating higher than other magazine and public affairs programs.

What accounts for these regular TV shows' strong showing? "Anghelita" is a traditional melodrama, a tearjerker that seeks to involve viewers in the tribulations of its pathetic title character.

"Zaido" attracts with its special effects. Now, some other *teleseryes* and *fantaseryes* also go in for a lot of visual effects, so the big question is, why is "Zaido" rating higher?

It could be that the GMA-7 show's edge is its star value, with many young stars playing key roles. This would make the program more appealing to young and young-adult viewers, who comprise the Philippines' population's largest demographic.

As for "24 Oras," viewers may be attracted to its mix of objective reportage and "entertaining" way of reporting the news. But newscasts should be careful about attaining an "infotainment" mix, because it's a very fine line to tread, and when broadcast journalists stumble, objective reportage usually loses out.

"Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho" goes for heartfelt coverage of her stories about individuals in the throes of personal loss or pain, and people searching for closure. Soho's warm, accessible persona makes her the right host for this type of show.

"Bitoy's Funniest Videos" uses some foreign rib-ticklers, but its best suit is host Michael V's penchant for going incognito as a cab driver and such, and engaging his vehicle's passengers in a lively interaction without their knowing who he is, or that they're being videotaped.

When they do find out, of course, they're utterly surprised, and more funny comments ensue.

And "Tok, Tok, Tok" is a game-challenge show that places its contestants in a wide range of situations and predicaments, so viewers have a good time seeing how the harassed entrants cope. It's the variety of the show's challenges that keeps viewers interested and entertained.

'Paskong Pinoy'

This early, make it a point to join the "Paskong Pinoy" celebration from Dec. 18 to 22 at the CCP Complex, as presented by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Manila Broadcasting Company.

On Dec. 18, Simbang Gabi (dawn mass) kicks off the special celebration at the CCP front lawn at 5 a.m. At 2 p.m., Bauan Christmas lanterns will be lit at the Little Theater lobby.

At the same time, "Sopas, Sining at Sorbetes" (Food to Taste, Art to Appreciate) will be held at the CCP ramp for 1,200 underprivileged children. After the program, the kids will be treated to free rides at Star City.

At 6:30 p.m., there will be a presentation of "Panunuluyan," a depiction of Mary and Joseph's search for an inn in Bethlehem. At 8 p.m., there will be a program featuring performances by selected artists and groups.

Other highlights: "Himig ng Pasko," a competition for children's choirs, "Tugtog ng Pasko" featuring rock bands, a *tiangge*, fireworks display and "Ilaw ng Pasko," a lantern float competition, with P200,000 going to the top winner.

How to sit through a Lav Diaz film

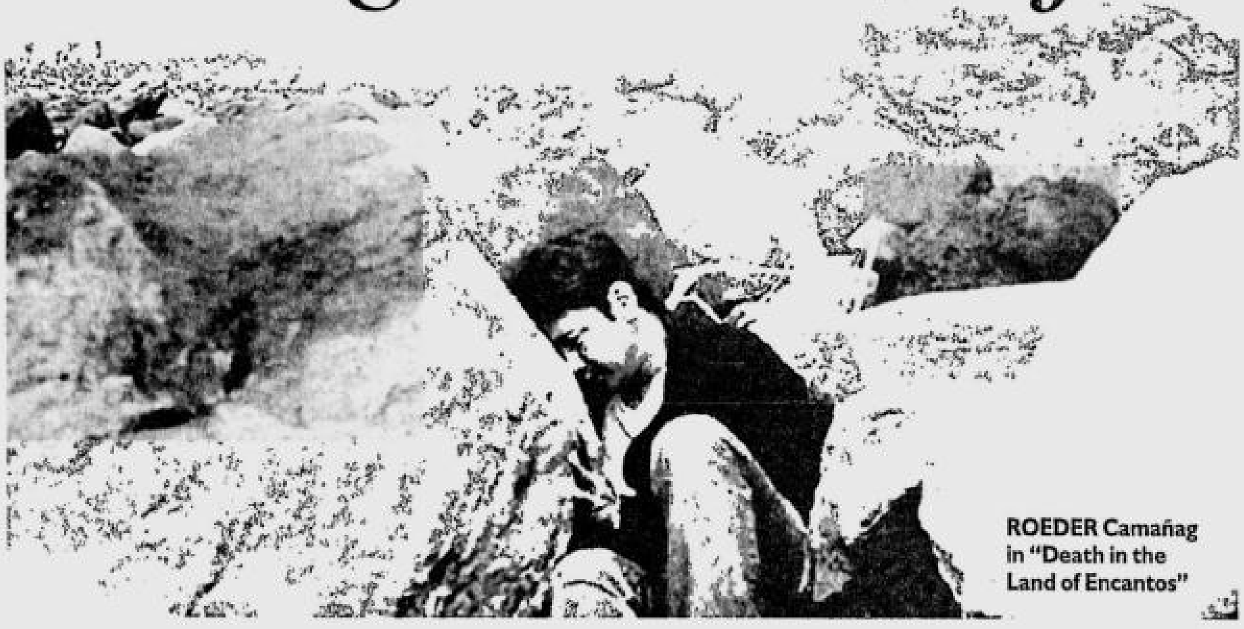
By Dr. Tilman Baumgärtel
Contributor

BRING OUT THE PICNIC baskets — here comes a new Lav Diaz film!

Diaz, of course, is the director of several independent films that have gained some notoriety, internationally as well as here in his native Philippines, for their sheer length.

His movies typically last eight hours or more, and seem to be better received in film festivals abroad. Here, screenings of his films are rare.

"Death in the Land of Encantos," his latest work, about the aftermath of typhoon Reming in Bicol, was shown for the first time at the Venice Film Festival early this year. It will have a Philippine premiere at the UP Film Center today, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



ROEDER Camañag in "Death in the Land of Encantos"

In his films, Diaz conveys a concept of time which, he feels, is specific to his culture. "We Malays... are not governed by the concept of time [but] by the concept of space," he said in a previous interview.

This essay is based on notes that I took while watching the nine-hour-long "Heremias" early this year in a mall in Manila.

The movie is about a travelling peasant, Heremias, who sells handicrafts that he carries around in his wagon. It was screened without any breaks despite its length.

Members of the audience were free to enter and leave the cinema as they wished— go to the bathroom, get something to eat, or take a stroll. When one returned, there was a good chance it would be the same scene—which was at once comforting and awkward.

Diaz amost always keeps his camera static. Thus, almost every shot has the look of a landscape painting.

"Heremias" opens with a shot of carabao-drawn carts that very slowly move along a country road. In the second shot we see the carts again from just a slightly different perspective. By the time they leave the screen, a half hour is over. Most feature films have established the whole plot in that length of time. It took me one hour and a half — the full run of most feature films — to merely identify the main protagonist.

Truer perception

After two hours comes the first movement, a short pan. In this glacial pace, the slightest changes are shocking. One drifts out of a typical moviegoer's mindset—which expects certain structures—and opens up to a kind of phenomenological observance. Slowly, one enters the realm of Diaz's "Malay time."

The French film critic André Bazin has argued that long takes allow for a truer perception of photographic reality. When he wrote this in the 1940s, Bazin had in mind traditional celluloid film whose maximum length for a "long shot" is eight minutes. Since Diaz uses a digital camera, he has takes as long as a digital tape allows—one hour.

One such episode in "Heremias," where the protagonist accidentally witnesses a group of youths running amuck in an abandoned house, it could be among the most intense, shocking and draining scenes in the history of cinema.

Often in Diaz's films, it's not the acting that leaves the strongest impression but certain details—a bizarre tree trunk, a palm tree in the wind, a gross sculpture in front of a church, a desolate bus stop.

The viewer becomes an organic part of the filmic flow if he chooses to so engage himself. Intermittently, he will rebel against the exorbitance; eventually he will drift, daydream, descend into something that has little to do with what he is watching. Then a sudden edit will rouse him.

Point of rest

Only a few meters away from one of the city's busiest intersections, in a mall full of piped-in music and screaming shop girls, the screening of "Heremias" was a point of rest. Its audience was treated to the sight of grazing carabaos and the sounds of crickets, falling rain and blowing winds. This in itself is a triumph.

By the time the screening was done, I had spent almost half a day with about 15 people around me in a cinema set up for 200 people. I had wandered out three times—for a cup of coffee at 11 a.m., for a bowl of soup at noon, for another cup of coffee at 4 p.m. One learns to treasure such moments!

The author is a professor at the Film Institute, College of Mass Communications, University of the Philippines, Diliman.

Belated ...

From page F1

too convenient) to label [it] ... as simply an 'Opera of Exploitation,'" Kurt Halfyard of Twitch wrote. He pointed out that, unlike other extreme films, "Silip" is "meticulously plotted, delicately structured and textured ... [finding] the sublime balance between thematic depth and shocking, even absurd, imagery."

Halfyard compared Perez's work to "[Japanese filmmaker] Nagisa Oshima's 'In the Realm of the Senses' and [Chilean director] Alejandro Jodorowsky's 'El Topo' ... it's a boiling cauldron which would make [US filmmaker] David Lynch smile."

Romain Le Vern of DVDrama also wrote a favorable review in French (which was translated for INQUIRER by Martin Macalintal, audiovisual attaché of the French embassy in Manila).

La Vern compared Perez to Dutch filmmaker Paul Verhoeven, describing "Silip" as "very rare ... totally fascinating."

La Vern observed that "Silip," which was scripted by Ricky Lee, "tells a story with a libertine air and erotic force ... complete with jokes, absurdity, naiveté, symbolism, tragedy, cruelty."

He concluded that it was "devilish Shakespeare."

Perez, who is currently working on two films, recalls that when he shot "Silip" in the sand dunes of Ilocos Norte, "I wasn't thinking of international acclaim. But now, with globalization, everything is easily accessible."

It was for the same reason that he was initially hesitant to release "Silip" on DVD. "I didn't want it to fall into the wrong hands. But [critic] Pete Tombs of Mondo Macabro assured me that they would treat it with respect."

Perez recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award, along with actress Nora Aunor, from the US-based Filipino group Reflections XIX.

Int'l ballroom champs...

From page F1

dancing competition. Expected to attend are acclaimed dancers from the United States, Russia, Italy, Poland, Germany, Slovenia, Denmark, Lithuania and Hungary. The event, which will be held on Feb. 16, is for the benefit of Kythe, an organization helping children afflicted with cancer.

One of the 11-member board of judges in "Philippine StarBall" is Charlotte Jorgenson, known for having coached actors Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez in the romantic comedy film "Shall We Dance."

A total of P7 million in prize money awaits the winners, according to event organizer Michaela "Pinky" Puno, chair the Council of United Professional Dance Teachers of the Philippines Inc. (CUPDTP)

"The aim of this event is to bring in the the world's best in dance competitions so that Filipinos can be exposed to their high standards," said Puno. "At the same time, it will be a chance for our foreign friends to see how talented Filipino dancers are."

Competitors will show their mastery of the 10 international dances. These include the Latin-American dances cha-cha, samba, rumba, paso doble and jive, as well as the standard/modern dances such as slow waltz, tango, foxtrot, Viennese waltz and quick step.

The CUPDTP is a dance teachers' organization recognized and accredited by the Games and Amusement Board. The event is co-sponsored by the Department of Tourism and the First Gentleman's Foundation.

'Soundskool' winner relies on tight playing

By Pocholo Concepcion

THERE WAS SILENCE, INSTEAD OF cheers, when the winner of the third Nescafe "Soundskool" search for the best college band was announced at the Ultra recently.

Many in the crowd had rooted for SOTC from the University of the East, whose lead vocalist Martin Protacio exhibited a strong presence that complemented the nice hooks and simple but engaging lyrics of the band's song.

But the judges, composed of record executives from EMI Philippines and Nescafe officials, voted for Lazy Susan—a band from Asian Development Foundation College in Tacloban. The band members themselves couldn't believe they had won.

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WINNING band Lazy Susan

Mentor bands

In hindsight, we figured it was the the band's tight playing and lead vocalist Philip Pagaduan's distinctive phrasing. While he was singing, we thought he sounded even better than Champ Lui Pio of Hale, which served as Lazy Susan's "mentor band."

A new feature in this year's "Soundskool" was the onstage jamming of the contestants with their respective mentor bands—some of the country's most popular musicians who were also tasked to guide their assigned wards in a songwriting workshop in Boracay.

It's been a while since Hale last appeared in public, and the overwhelming number of its noisy peers must've drowned out the energy of the ballad-oriented group. But the other mentors apparently had a blast.

Jr. Kilat, proponents of Cebuano reggae, delighted the audience with a song inspired by the childhood game of spiders. The band's counterpart, Youth Rebellion (also from Asian Development Foundation College, Tacloban), likewise played a reggae number.

Moonstar 88 played midtempo pop-rock that served as a smooth transition to the English lyrics of the song performed by Jam Disposition from the University of the Cordilleras.

The Itchyworms, heir apparent to Eraserheads-style tunes, was a perfect partner to SOTC, which obviously enjoyed the jam (and the workshop) so much that its singer went on to say: "*Ang pagbabanda hindi pala tungkol sa pera or* fame, *kundi para mapasaya ang tao!*"

Sponge Cola, notable for the full-bodied pipes of vocalist Yael Yuson, performed two of its biggest hits, "Tuliro" and "Bitiw." Its partner finalist, Blue Ozone from St. Vincent College, Dipolog, displayed proficiency with its instruments.

Pedicab, unconventional and offbeat with its dance-punk music, looked like another perfect foil to its partner-ward, Ernville from the University of Asia and the Pacific. We weren't sure, though, whether Ernville vocalist Jim Bacarro was a fan of avante garde dissonance or was simply out of tune.

Imago, greeted by warm applause for its melodic pop, had vocalist Aia de Leon prancing like a female Mick Jagger and teasing singer Marcee Lacap of Hymn of Siren from Ateneo de Manila. This all-female band was a sight to behold, but its performance was marred by jitters.

Impressive

As a whole, the show was impressive—the concept of letting the college bands jam with their assigned mentors flowing smoothly with the use of a multi-level stage.

The presence of Pinoy rock's current creme de la creme, including Sandwich, Rivermaya, Parokya ni Edgar and Bamboo in guest performances, said a lot about the organizer's desire to utilize music to promote its product.

In the end, Bamboo drove home the point of what was important to make it big—provocative music, catchy lyrics, a charismatic frontman, solid backup and how these would all mesh with confidence and dynamics.

HYMN of Siren from Ateneo

WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

Top 10 films at the North American box office for the weekend beginning November 23

Enchanted, Walt Disney Pictures

TW	LW	Title	Total gross	WR
1	☆	Enchanted	$ 50.1 mln	1
2	☆	This Christmas	$ 27.1 mln	1
3	1	Beowulf	$ 23.3 mln	2
4	☆	Hitman	$ 21.0 mln	1
5	2	Bee Movie	$ 15.9 mln	4
6	4	Fred Claus	$ 15.1 mln	3
7	☆	August Rush	$ 13.3 mln	1
8	☆	The Mist	$ 13.0 mln	4
9	3	American Gangster	$ 12.7 mln	1
10	7	No Country for Old Men	$ 11.0 mln	3

TW This week ☆ New release WR Weeks in release
LW Last week
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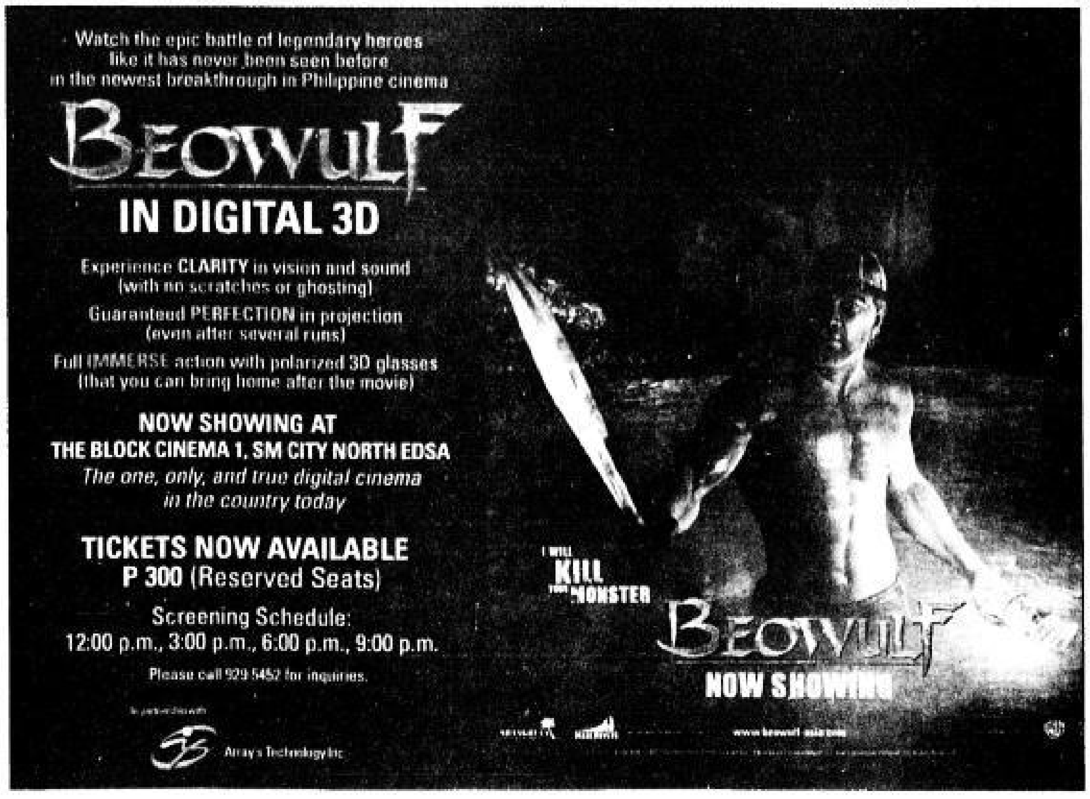

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10 PASUKOB
11 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
12 THE GAME PLAN

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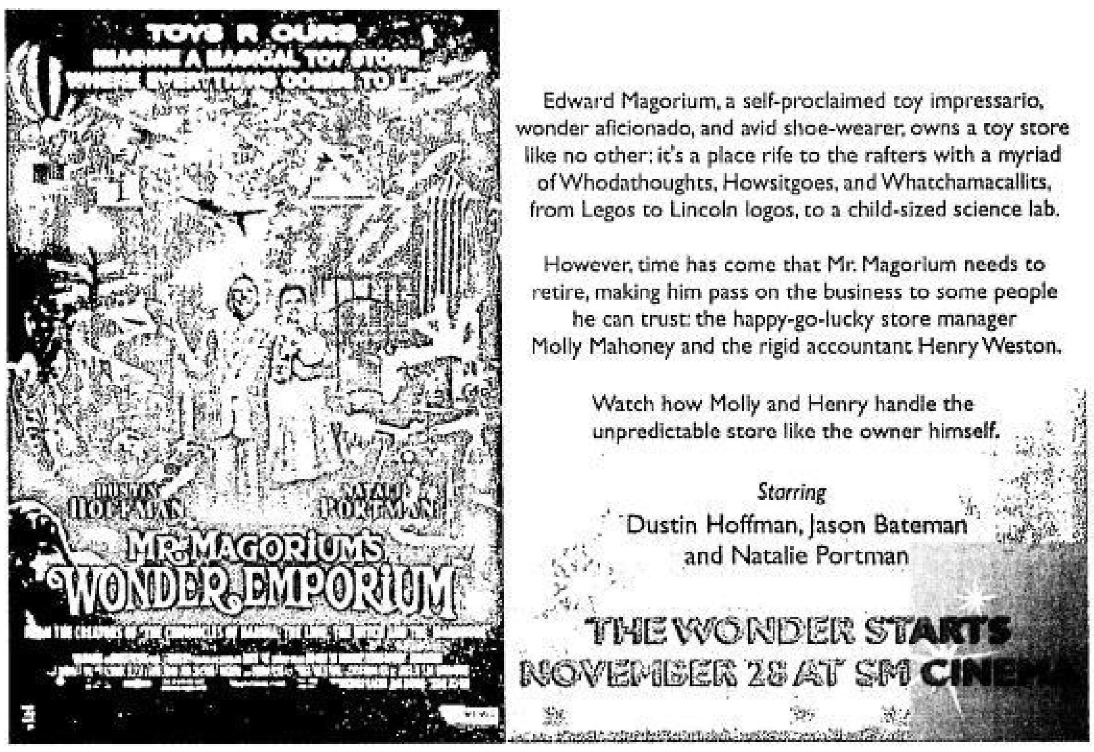
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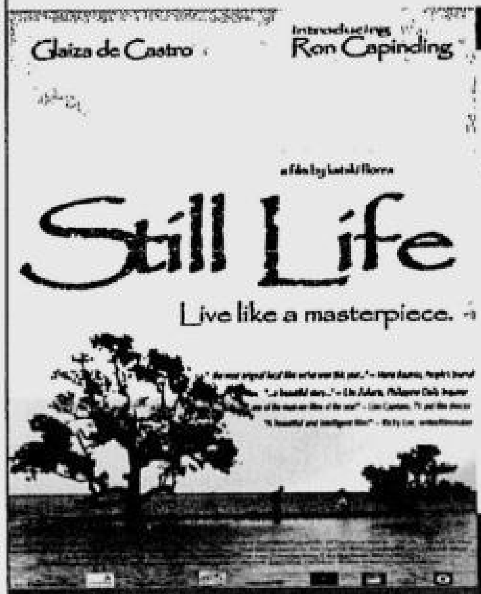
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Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 PASUKOB
2 indieSine: STILL LIFE
3 BOOGEYMAN 2
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
6 THE KINGDOM
7 FRED CLAUS

Midtown

1 BEOWULF
2 HITMAN
3 ENCHANTED

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 MR. MAGORIUM;S WONDER EMPORIUM
2 FRED CLAUS
3 THE KINGDOM
4 PASUKOB
5 HITMAN
6 ONE MORE CHANCE
7 BEOWULF
8 ENCHANTED

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 936-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
2 PASUKOB
3 FRED CLAUS
4 THE KINGDOM

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-6378

1 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
2 ENCHANTED
3 THE KINGDOM
4 PASUKOB

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1. MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
2 PASUKOB
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED

LIPA

Ticket Price: (043) 757-3664 P 90 (043) 312-5870

1 BEOWULF
2 PASUKOB
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 ENCHANTED
2 PASUKOB
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 FRED CLAUS
5 THE KINGDOM

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-6188

1 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
2 FRED CLAUS
3 PASUKOB
4 THE KINGDOM
5 ONE MORE CHANCE

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 PASUKOB
2 ENCHANTED
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS

TARLAC

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 UNREST
3 GAME PLAN

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 PASUKOB
2 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED
5 LIONS FOR LAMBS
6 HITMAN

BACOLOD

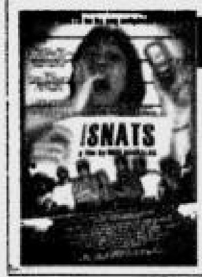
Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 BEOWULF
2 PASUKOB
3 ENCHANTED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
6 RENDITION / indieSine: ISNATS

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 PASUKOB
3 ENCHANTED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 LIONS FOR LAMBS
6 BEOWULF



NOW SHOWING

na-ISNATS na ba ang cellphone mo?

Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD indieSine showing on NOVEMBER 28 to DECEMBER 04

ISNATS is an action-adventure cum satiric-informative movie about a cellphone snatching incident that leads to gangster skirmishes. Comedic scenes by Rock icon (Rocksteddy) Teddy Corpuz(Sugo/Idol ko si Kap) QTV Hapinas Host Ronald "Joaqui" Tupas, Archie Adamos and veteran actor Berting Labra. Indie Actors Jourdan Sebastian and Joel Olaño lead the cast.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 (DOLBY) MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER
2 (DOLBY) THE KINGDOM
3 (DOLBY) HITMAN
4 (DOLBY) FRED CLAUS

[illegible]

(DOLBY) ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati

Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4224 / 816.4216

1 THE KINGDOM
2 FRED CLAUS
3 PASUKOB
4 ENCHANTED

starmall EDSA•SHAW

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 PASUKOB
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ONE MORE CHANCE
5

metropolis star Cinema

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1 FRED CLAUS
2 PASUKOB
3 HITMAN
4 BEOWULF

THEATRES

[illegible]

1 GAME PLAN
2 PASUKOB
3 ONE MORE CHANCE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 PASUKOB
3
4

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ENCHANTED
4 BEOWULF
5 THE KINGDOM
6 HITMAN
7 THE KINGDOM
8 RESERVED
9 PASUKOB
10 FRED CLAUS

Blue Wave MARIKINA

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) PASUKOB
2 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) ENCHANTED
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 PASUKOB

THE MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 PASUKOB
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 PASUKOB
2 HITMAN
3 BEOWULF

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449348)

1 ENCHANTED
2 BEOWULF

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 PASUKOB
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 ENCHANTED

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 PASUKOB
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER
2 (DOLBY) THE KINGDOM
3 (DOLBY) ENCHANTED
4 (DOLBY) FRED CLAUS

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 PASUKOB
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 PASUKOB
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 UNREST
3 PASUKOB
4 GAME PLAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 PASUKOB

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 PASUKOB

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4746

1 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
2 BOOGEY MAN

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 BOOGEY MAN - 2
2 LIPSTIK
3 SEX SCANDAL
4 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
3 ENCHANTED
4 HIGHLANDER
5 PASUKOB

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 ENCHANTED
2 PASUKOB
3 BEOWULF
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 PLEASE CALL
2

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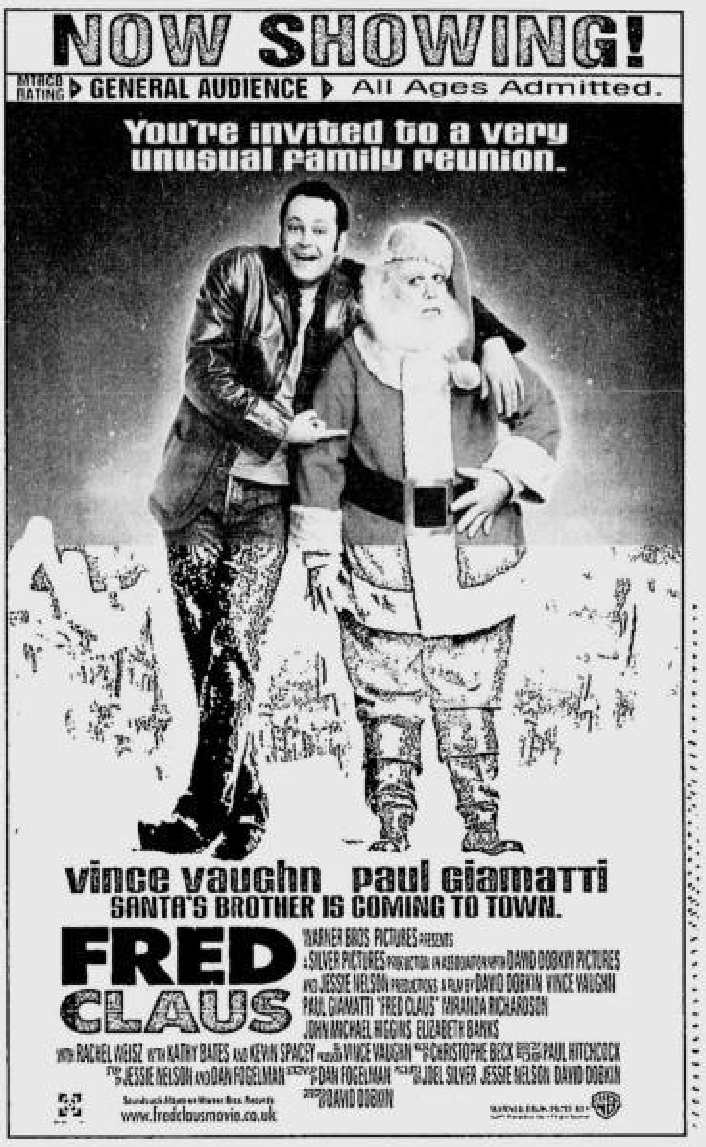
For inquiries, call
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	MR. MA[illegible]RIUM'S WONDER [illegible]PORIUM	2:00, 4.[illegible] [illegible]:30	G
	THE KINGDOM	8:35, 11:00	R-13
2	THE KINGDOM	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	R-13
3	ENCHANTED	3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35	G
4	FRED CLAUS	3:35, 6:05, 9:20	G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You're invited to a very unusual family reunion.
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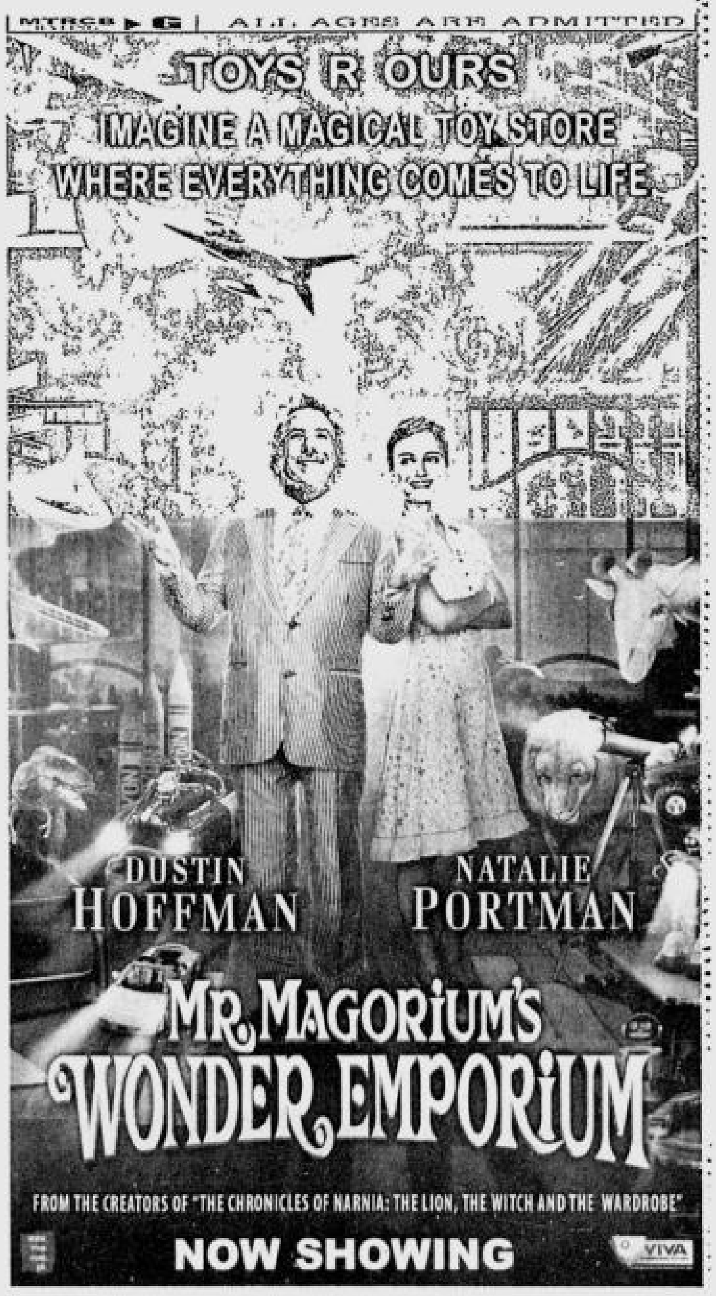
www.fredclausmovie.co.uk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NATALIE PORTMAN
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
FROM THE CREATORS OF "THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE"
NOW SHOWING
VIVA

Simultaneous gigs on National Heroes Day

SHOW TIME

AKON, ONE OF TODAY'S HOTTEST R&B/hip hop artists, performs tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Senegalese-American singer-songwriter, whose latest album "Konvicted" has sold more than 5 million copies, was a nominee in the recent Grammy Awards and won as Favorite Soul/R&B Artist in this year's American Music Awards.

Call 911-5555 for tickets.

Album launch

Mozzie, a band fronted by INQUIRER 2BU editor Pam Pastor, launches its seven-song EP tonight, 7 p.m. at Xaymaca, Timog Ave., Quezon City.

Tribute to Ka Amado

"Amado, Minamahal," a poetry, song and dance tribute to writer/labor leader Amado Hernandez, features masterpieces of late National Artists Lucio San Pedro and Felipe de Leon interpreted by Nanding Josef, Robert Seña, Ana Feleo, Ramon Acoymo, Bituin Escalante, Bobby Balingit, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Philippine Madrigal Singers, Ballet Philippines Kids, Brownman Revival, Tribu, among others.

The event happens tomorrow, National Heroes Day, 8 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Call 832-1125.

Fund-raising concert

Mga Anak ni Inang Daigdig, a group of young singers from Smokey Mountain, Tondo trained by music professor Jerry Dadap, holds a fund-raising concert tomorrow, 7:30 p.m. at the Philamlife Theater, United Nations Ave. Manila.

Proceeds go to the construction of the Bulwagang Andres Bonifacio at the Church of the Risen Christ in Smokey Mountain. Call 256-2336 for tickets.

Back-to-back

Cueshe and Frio play back-to-back tomorrow at the Angono Municipal Gymnasium.

Also performing are Dayuhan and Monsterbot. Call 651-0110 or 0922-7681221.

CUESHE

BROWNMAN Revival

VINA Morales

'Adeste Fideles'

The Yuletide concert "Adeste Fideles 2007" brings together sopranos Rachelle Gerodias, Karla Gutierrez, Elaine Lee and Jennifer Uy; tenors Nolyn Cabahug, Abdul Candao, Randy Gilongo; the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Chiang Kai Shek College Youth Choir, Sherwin Sozon, George Yang and special guest Vina Morales on Dec. 4 at the PICC. For tickets, call TicketWorld at 891-9999 or MAP at 751-1149.

Tomorrow

- Reymond Sajor and Anna Fegi, 7 p.m. at the College of the Immaculate Conception, Cabanatuan City. Call (044) 486-3739 or 0916-4063686.
- True Faith at Ratsky Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

Dec. 1

- Kamikazee, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's College, Quezon City. Call 426-3380.
- Julianne and Miguel Escueta at Figaro Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

Dec. 2

- Freestyle at Robinsons Place Manila.

Ayala Cinemas
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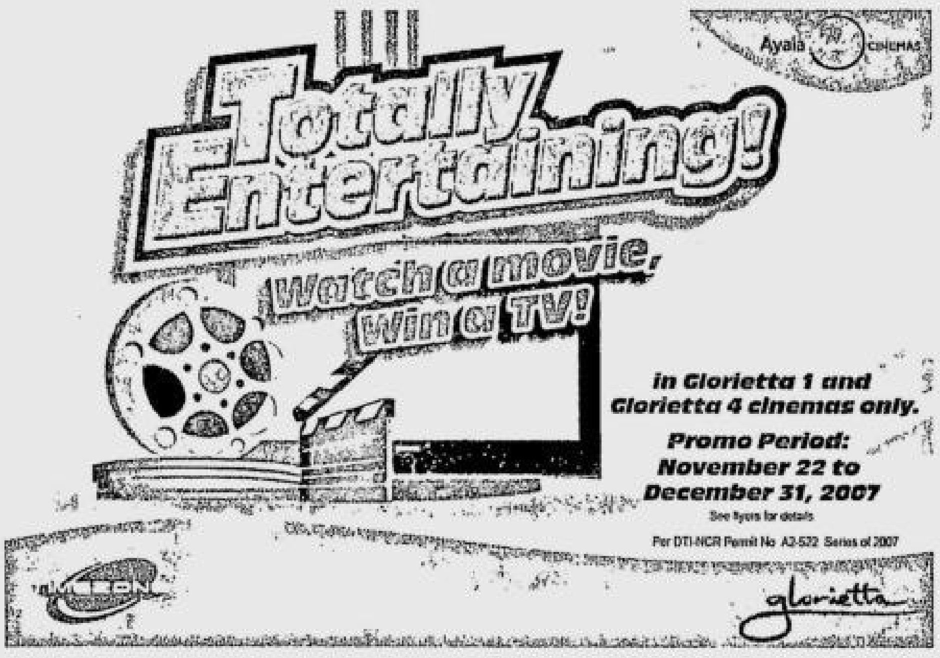
Ayala Cinemas
Totally Entertaining!
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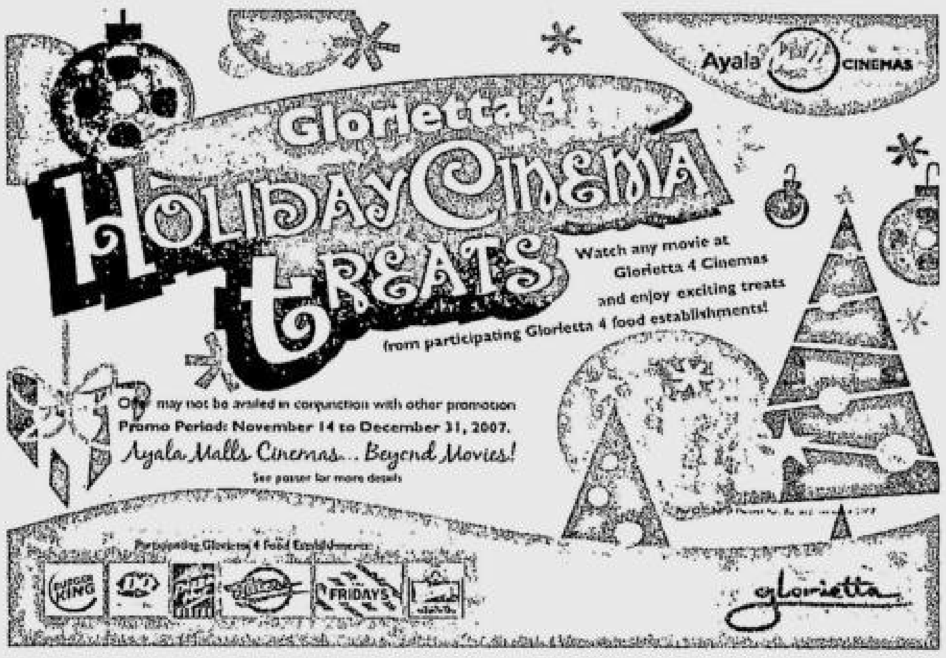
glorietta
In Glorietta 1 and Glorietta 4 cinemas only.
Promo Period: November 22 to December 31, 2007
See flyers for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No A2-522 Series of 2007



Watch any movie at Glorietta 4 Cinemas and enjoy exciting treats from participating Glorietta 4 food establishments!
Offer may not be availed in conjunction with other promotion
Promo Period: November 14 to December 31, 2007.
Ayala Malls Cinemas... Beyond Movies!
See poster for more details
Participating Glorietta 4 Food Establishments:

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

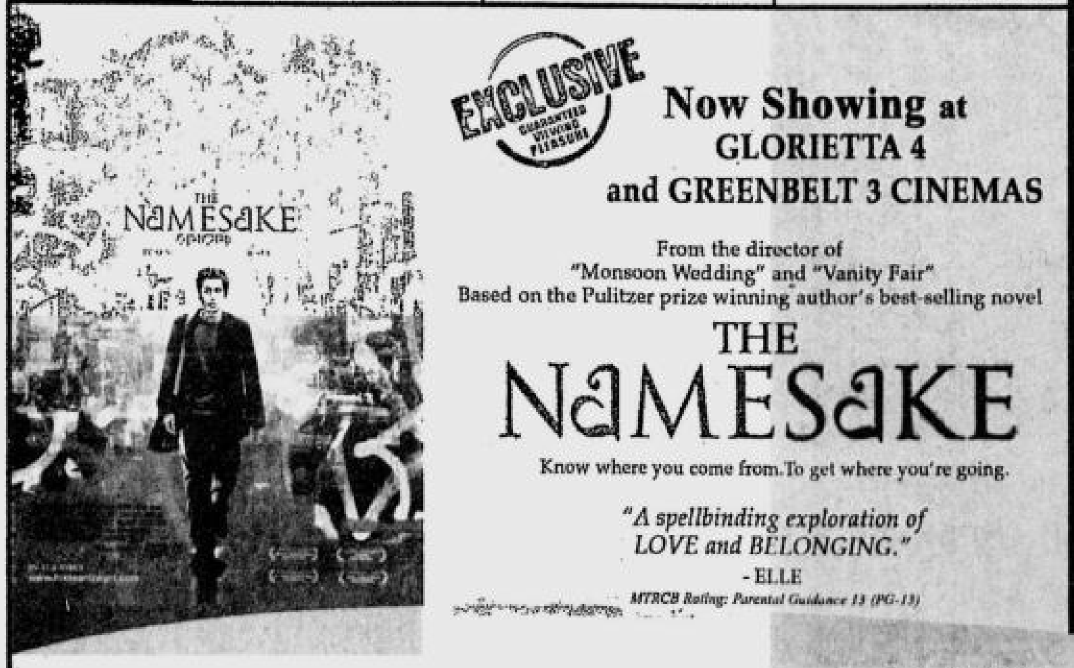
GLORIETTA 1	1	BEOWULF
	2	THE KINGDOM
	3	PASUKOB
	4	ONE MORE CHANCE
GLORIETTA 4	1	ENCHANTED
	2	HITMAN
	3 THX	THE KINGDOM GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	THE NAMESAKE
	5	FRED CLAUS
	6	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
	7	ONE MORE CHANCE
GREENBELT 1	1	PASUKOB
	2	THE KINGDOM
GREENBELT 3	1 THX	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	THE KINGDOM GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	THE NAMESAKE GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	FRED CLAUS GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	ENCHANTED GUARANTEED SEATS
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	THE KINGDOM
	2	FRED CLAUS
	3	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
	4	PASUKOB
	5	ENCHANTED
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	THE KINGDOM
	2	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
	3	ENCHANTED
	4	HITMAN / LIONS FOR LAMBS
MARKET! MARKET!	1	PASUKOB
	2	FRED CLAUS
	3	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
	4	THE KINGDOM
	5	ONE MORE CHANCE
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1	PASUKOB
	2	ONE MORE CHANCE
	3	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	FRED CLAUS GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	HITMAN
	6	ENCHANTED
	7 THX	THE KINGDOM GUARANTEED SEATS

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	DOUBLE MIDNIGHT MADNESS SALE November 30 to December 2
GREENBELT	Bossa Christmas with Guarana and The Company November 30; 8pm; Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	World Vision Concert with Nikki Gil and British School Manila December 2; 6pm; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Seussical the Musical December 7 to 9; 11:30am, 3pm and 6pm; Onstage Cinema 1
MARKET! MARKET!	All For Kids Toy Fair November 26 to 29; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents FIDDLER ON THE ROOF November 9 - December 16, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	WATER: THE MEDIUM by Juvenal Sanso November 24 to January 13, 2008; Ground Floor Gallery For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks December 9; 6pm; Activity Center Rhythm Academy: Pops Fernandez and The UP Cherubim and Seraphim December 16; 6pm; Activity Center



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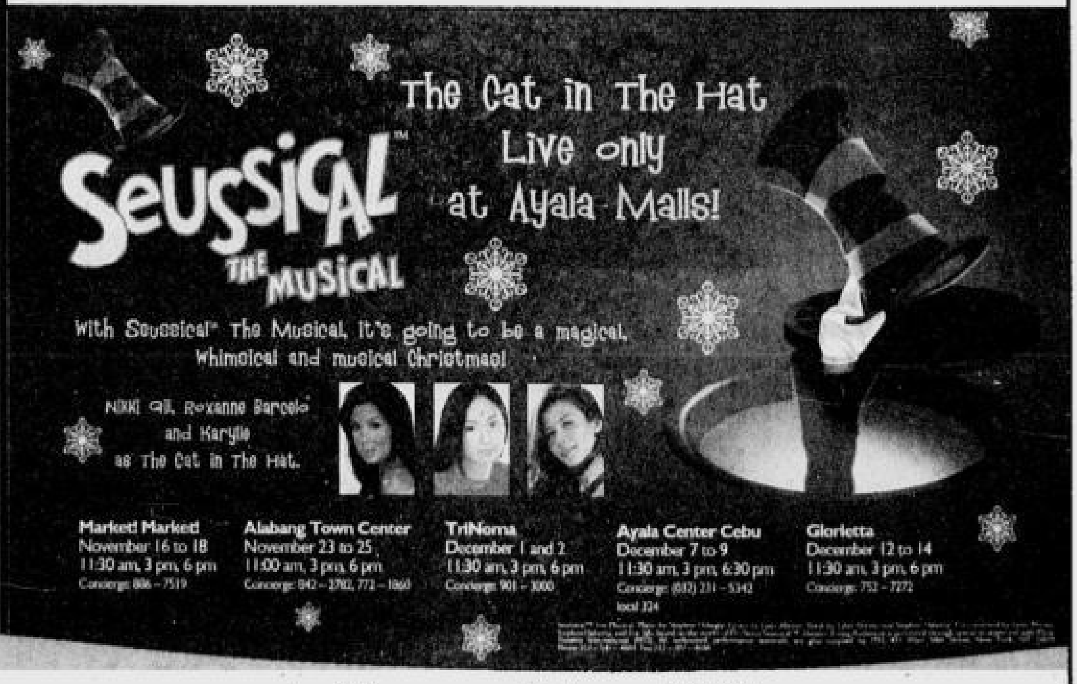
From the director of "Monsoon Wedding" and "Vanity Fair"
Based on the Pulitzer prize winning author's best-selling novel
THE NAMESAKE
Know where you come from. To get where you're going.
"A spellbinding exploration of LOVE and BELONGING."
- ELLE
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)



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Live only at Ayala Malls!
With Seussical™ The Musical, it's going to be a magical, whimsical and musical Christmas!
Nikki Gil, Roxanne Barcelo and Karylle as The Cat in The Hat.
Market! Market! November 16 to 18, 11:30 am, 3 pm, 6 pm, Concierge: 886 - 7519
Alabang Town Center November 23 to 25, 11:00 am, 3 pm, 6 pm, Concierge: 842 - 2782, 772 - 1860
TriNoma December 1 and 2, 11:30 am, 3 pm, 6 pm, Concierge: 901 - 3000
Ayala Center Cebu December 7 to 9, 11:30 am, 3 pm, 6:30 pm, Concierge: (032) 231 - 5342 local 324
Glorietta December 12 to 14, 11:30 am, 3 pm, 6 pm, Concierge: 752 - 7272

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

De Niro wants pa's paintings back, threatens to sue NY gallery

ROME—US ACTOR Robert de Niro is seeking the return of paintings by his father from a Rome gallery where they are on sale, curator Ida Benucci said Monday.

Debt payment

The paintings by Robert de Niro Sr., who died in 1993, arrived in Rome two years ago from the Salander gallery in New York, which went bankrupt and ceded the works to Benucci as a partial debt payment.

ACTOR is offering a "symbolic" payment.
REUTERS

"Robert de Niro asked to buy his father's paintings for a symbolic price," Benucci told AFP, without saying how much the actor offered.

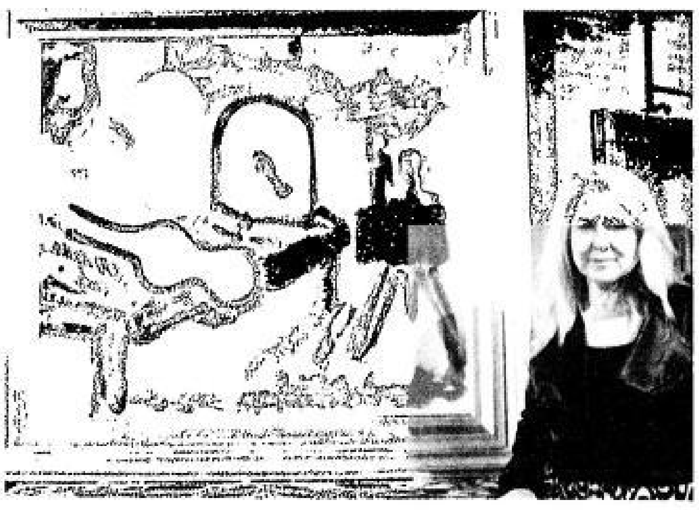
The Italian daily Corriere della Sera said the value of the paintings ranged between $25,000 and $150,000.

"I've contacted our lawyers," Benucci said. "I don't want a conflict with Robert de Niro."

US media reports said De Niro has launched legal action against Salander. Benucci's gallery is in the chic Via del Babuino in the heart of Rome. "Salander owed me large sums of money, and to reimburse me, at least in part, it ceded the paintings of Robert de Niro as well as works by the sculptor Dan Gummer, the husband of Meryl Streep," Benucci said.

Streep and De Niro attended the opening in May 2005 when the works went on exhibit at Salander.

"The situation has not changed since Robert de Niro's initial request. I informed him that I was prepared to sell him the paintings, while he said he was willing to offer me the exclusive right to hold exhibits of his father's works," Benucci said. *AFP*



CURATOR Ida Benucci poses beside a painting by Robert de Niro senior, in her central Rome gallery, where it is on sale along with other pieces by the actor's father, who died in 1993. The paintings are valued at "anywhere from $25,000 to $150,000."
AFP

Araneta Center araneta-center.net
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Farmers Market

Gateway Cineplex*10
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
ADMIT ONE

THE KINGDOM 1:30 | 4:10 6:50 | 9:30
FRED CLAUS 1:45 | 4:20 6:55 | 9:30
MR MAGORIUMS 12:30 | 2:45 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30
PASUKOB 12:30 | 2:45 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:00

COMPLETELY UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

BEOWULF 1:35 | 4:10 6:45 | 9:20
ENCHANTED 1:45 | 4:20 6:55 | 9:30
HITMAN 1:50 | 4:20 6:50 | 9:20
ONE MORE CHANCE 12:20 | 2:40 5:00 | 7:20 | 9:40

Globe PLATINUM CINEMA

THE KINGDOM 12:55 | 3:35 6:15 | 9:00

ARANETA COLISEUM

TEN: PIOLO LIVE AT THE ARANETA
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DOLBY DIGITAL

FRED CLAUS G 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	ENCHANTED G 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER OF EMPORIUM G 11:30,1:40,3:50, 6:00,8:10,10:20
HITMAN R13 12:00,2:10,4:15,6:20, 8:25,10:30	BEOWULF PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	THE KINGDOM R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX
① MR. MAGORIUM MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
③ HITMAN MTRCB R-13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
② KINGDOM MTRCB R-13 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
④ FRED CLAUS MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00
PREMIERE THEATRE ENCHANTED (GP) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
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for more details.
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The Agora @ 28

Hail to the Marketing Legends!

A new set of marketing legends will officially ascend the elite roster of Agora Greats as Philippine Marketing Association once again confers honor to companies and professionals whose expertise and flair in marketing pushed the industry up a higher notch.

Slated tonight at the Main Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Makati City, Agora Awards, PMA's flagship project, challenges marketing professionals to live up to the more stringent standard of performance across the globe.

Forming this year's set of winners are Perpetuo Declaro of Wyeth Philippines Inc for his outstanding achievement in marketing management; Coco Technologies Corp for its Outstanding Achievement in Export Marketing; Rosanna Llenado of Ahead Learning Systems Inc, for her outstanding achievement in entrepreneurship, small scale; Sylvia Concepcion of the University of the Philippines for her Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education; Dennis Mendiola of Chikka Asia Inc, for his outstanding achievement in entrepreneurship-large scale; Ramon Vergel de Dios of Shell Oil Products - United States for Asia Pacific Marketing Excellence; Ayala Foundation Inc for its Outsanding Achievement in Advocacy Marketing; and Universal Robina Corp for Marketing Company of the Year.

The AGORA AWARDS
CHOWKING FOODS CORPORATION
AGORA AWARDS 2005
MARKETING COMPANY OF THE YEAR

Now on its 28th year of giving due recognition to exceptionally adept and competent Filipino marketers and companies in the industry, the Agora Awards is the longest running recognition body for marketing excellence in the country.

PMA, a premier organization for marketing professionals, established the Agora Awards in 1979 to professionalize the marketing practice. Derived from the Greek word, Agora, during the ancient Athens, the Agora awards has honored only the finest and worthiest individuals and companies through all its years of existence.

Agora Awardees underwent an extensive screening process by the Search Committee and a series of thorough deliberation amongst members of a strictly selected Board of Judges, who are also marketing achievers in their own rights.

The rigid process of selection of finalists and winners only highlights the fact that Agora Awardees are living testimonies to the claim that the Filipinos' skills in marketing are of world-class quality.

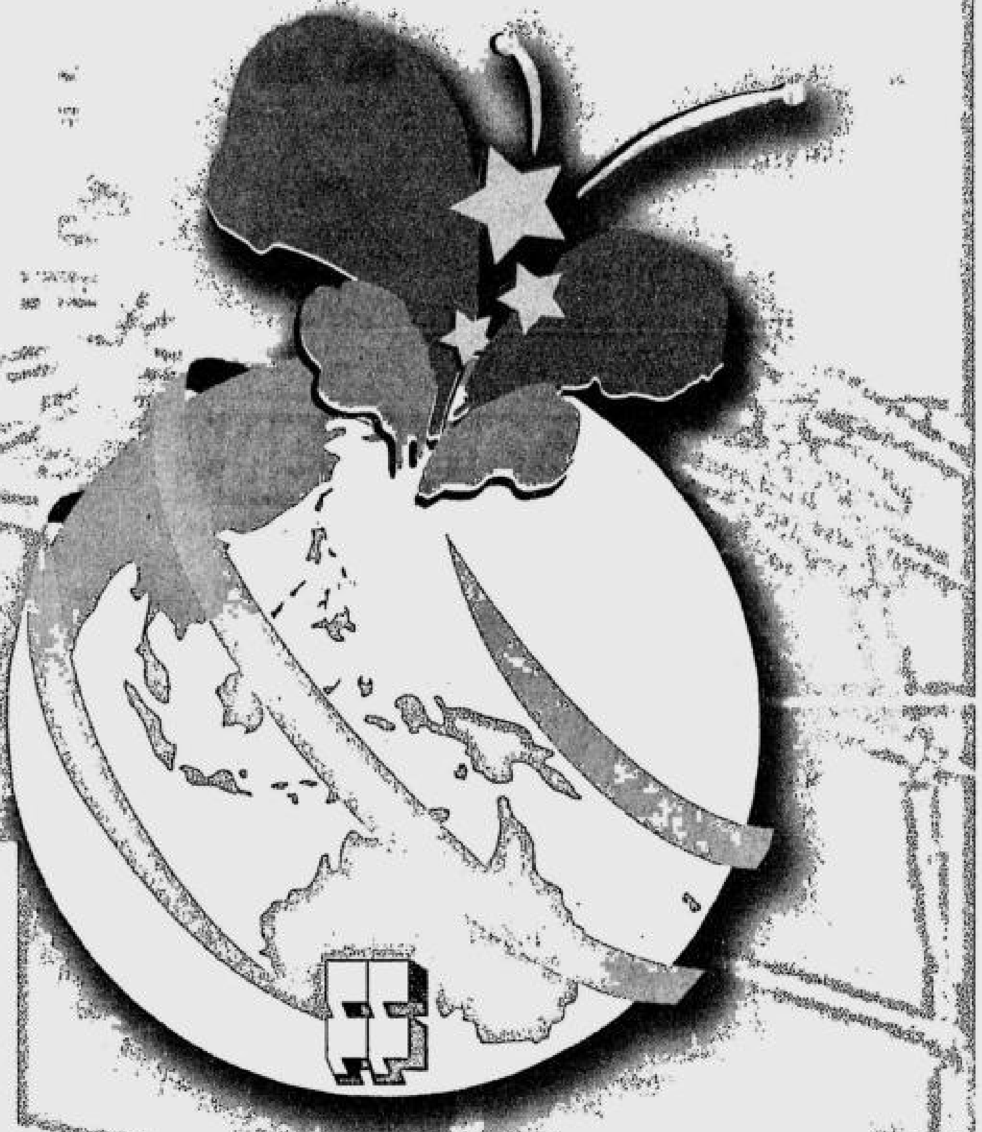
Because of their trailblazing accomplishments, they are now widely acknowledged as the "cream of the crop", respected for their solid achievements in the most competitive business categories.

"The success stories of every Agora Awardee serve as light to the Philippine Marketing Association," Erly de Guzman, PMA's Director for Agora Awards, said. "Searching for qualified individuals was a challenge for the entire committee but we are proud that the fruits of our labor include providing models which the entire nation may emulate."

Because of their remarkable contributions in the field, this year's set of Agora Awardees are sure to ignite a sense of nationalism in Filipinos, making them proud that their beloved is streamlined with world-class marketers whose noteworthy flair in the field makes Filipinos at par in the international sphere.

The Agora Winners

UNIVERSAL ROBINA CORPORATION
Ayala Foundation



Now on its 28th year of giving due recognition to exceptionally adept and competent Filipino marketers and companies in the industry

Exhibit Opening

Programme
Hosted by Paolo Bediones

Invocation

Philippine National Anthem

President's Welcome Address
Fredrick M. Alegre
EVP & COO, Philippine Graphic
VP Corporate Affairs, Business Mirror

Agora Director's Opening Remarks
Erlinda B. de Guzman
Founder & President, Galing Pilipino Movement
MDRT / Unit Manager, Sun Life of Canada Philippines

Agora Chairman's Introductions
Virgilio G. Ajero
Marketing Director,Chowking Foods Corporation

Banquet Dinner

Awarding Ceremonies

Opening Production Number : ***Filipino Excellence in the World of Opera***
Ana Feleo in an Opera Classic "Habanera"

The Agora for Marketing Education	**Dr. Sylvia B. Concepcion** *Professor, University of the Philippines Mindanao*
The Agora for Asia-Pacific Marketing	**Mr. Ramon B. Vergel de Dios** *Global Marketing Manager for Construction, Shell Oil Products USA*
The Agora for Export Marketing	**Mr. Justino R. Arboleda, Jr.** *President & CEO, Coco Technologies Corporation*

Second Production Number : ***Filipino Excellence in the World of Theatre***
Robert Sena & Isay Alvarez in a West End theatrical production number

The Agora for Entrepreneurship

Small-Scale	**Ms. Rosanna L. Llenado** *President, AHEAD Learning Systems, Inc.*
Large-Scale	**Mr. Dennis B. Mendiola** *Founder & CEO, Chikka Asia, Inc.*

Third Production Number : ***Filipino Excellence in the World of Music***
Ana Feleo & Jack Salud in a delightful OPM musical rendition

The Agora for Marketing Management	**Mr. Perpetuo M. de Claro** *President & General Manager, Wyeth Philippines, Inc.*
The Agora for Marketing Advocacy	**Ayala Foundation, Inc.** *Mr. Guillermo Luz, Managing Director*

Fourth Production Number : ***Filipino Excellence in the World of Dance***
National Artist Ligaya Fernando-Amilbangsa in a soulful dance interpretation of 'Pangalay'

The Agora Marketing Company of the Year	**Universal Robina Corporation** *Mr. Lance Gokongwei, President*

Grand Finale

Mabuhay Toast

Because of their remarkable contributions in the field, this year's set of Agora Awardees are sure to ignite a sense of nationalism in Filipinos, making them proud that their beloved is streamlined with world-class marketers whose noteworthy flair in the field makes Filipinos at par in the international sphere

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ry M. Alegre
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ippine Marketing Assn.

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phire Publications, Inc.

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28th Agora Awards

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Galing Pilipino Movement Foundation

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28th Agora Awards

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28th Agora Awards

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28th Agora Awards

1983 President
Philippine Marketing Association

Liza Ronquillo
Sub-Category Head, Large Scale - Entrepreneurship
28th Agora Awards

Marketing Director
Bistro Group of Companies

Sabrina Anne M. Alleje
Sub-Category Head, Medium Scale - Entrepreneurship
28th Agora Awards

Business Devt. Manager
The Property Forum Phils Inc

May Ann Cruz
Sub Category Head, Small Scale - Entrepreneurship
28th Agora Awards

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MARKETING COMPANY OF THE YEAR

Universal Robina Corporation

UNIVERSAL ROBINA CORPORATION

Optimizing the emerging global trend of health and wellness, C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea, Universal Robina Corporation's (URC) innovation in the ready-to-drink beverage category, spearheaded the expansion of a relatively new and potentially high-growth segment in the Philippine beverage industry: the green tea segment.

Despite some possible problems, which include the fact that Filipinos are generally not green tea-drinkers, C2 sales soared immediately after it was introduced to the Pinoy in 2004.

Now the runaway market leader, C2's success only reinstates URC's stand in the industry. One of the leading manufacturing companies in the Philippines, URC produces and distributes a diverse array of snacks, under the Jack 'n Jill mega brand, beverages, noodles, and tomato-based products. URC holds either market leadership or a strong challenger position in these categories.

URC is currently the biggest Philippine Food and Beverage company with the widest geographical footprint, as it presently operates in several countries within the Asean region, including Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Vietnam. URC International maintains six manufacturing facilities throughout the region, and has leading market shares in well-targeted niche categories such as wafers in Thailand, potato chips in Singapore, and potato chips and compound chocolates in Malaysia.

Aside from this, the company has also ventured into packaging, agro-industrial and commodities business, flour manufacturing, and sugar milling and refinery.

Despite tough competition, this company, through its dedicated team, maintains its rightful pedestal in the Philippine business arena, making it a truly deserving recipient of the Agora Marketing Company of the Year Award.

ASIA PACIFIC AGORA AWARD FOR MARKETING EXCELLENCE

Ramon Vergel de Dios

Global Marketing Manager- Construction
Shell Oil Products -US

Humility can be evoked when talking to Ramon Vergel de Dios, a totally Global Filipino. Hesitant to accept the Agora nomination at first because he believes that there are a number of other Filipinos outside of the Philippines that are excelling in the field of marketing, he still feels honored to be conferred this much coveted recognition.

Having 23 years of experience with Shell, this Industrial Management Engineering - Mechanical Engineering graduate from the De La Salle University, specialized in doing Sales and Marketing roles. In 2001, he moved to Kenya to handle development of East Africa Commercial Business. He became marketing manager for Africa, Middle East and Central Asia. In 2006, he moved to the United States to become the Global Sector Marketing Manager for the Construction Industry.

His stint in different parts of the world were focused on ensuring that his company has a robust strategy in place and making sure that all the marketing programs lead to the delivery of that strategy. Another focus is on proper implementation despite the cultural differences in the different countries that he operated in. Because of his dedication to what he does, the business strategies he was responsible for grew by double digits year on year.

His innate flair in the field made him shine among other nationalities. Competition posed by those coming from more developed countries never hindered him from achieving more in the name of his country. Truly a proud Filipino, this Asia Pacific Agora Awardee was quoted as saying: "I have seen Filipinos do well and excel in their respective fields. Our *kabayans* are present all over the world because we can easily adapt to other cultures. We can easily blend and get along with other people. With this trait plus the hard work that Filipinos are known for in other countries, the Filipino will excel in a global environment."

THE AGORA AWARD FOR MARKETING MANAGEMENT

Perpetuo de Claro

President and General Manager
Wyeth Philippines

It is said that a leader must know the way, show the way, and lead the way. A good leader who at certain times may not know, may not show and may not lead the way should get out of the way—this was what Perpetuo de Claro, President of Wyeth Philippines said, when asked what makes a good leader.

Hailing a performance-driven and results-oriented atmosphere in his workplace, de Claro claims that he only has had some "luck" in his career. But heading an entire marketing group despite tough competition and setting stable pedestals for his various products, this marketing extraordinaire has long proven his worth in the industry.

Throughout his career, he has exhibited an uncompromising principle in extracting excellence in what he does as a leader, marketer, and as a proud Filipino.

"I had been lucky enough to realize the value of innovating and renovating very early on in my career, even before the innovation premium concept really gained currency," he said.

Although he admits that he is very demanding, holds high standards and constantly challenges his team to set and achieve higher goals, he is still able to gain the respect of his people, inspiring them to rally behind big ideas and huge plans.

"I believe that we, as leaders, must really lead, really excel, really aspire and always inspire," he said. "I believe in the power of cakes and parties after conquering the demons that try to thwart our plans, and the tortuous mountains that present themselves as obstacles to our grand ambitions."

To be great in marketing, de Claro, the recipient of this year's Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Management Agora Award, urges that "one has to know his consumers, know his people, know his capabilities and limitations, and then act, unhesitatingly, courageously, ingeniously, and completely because only by doing so will victory be at hand."

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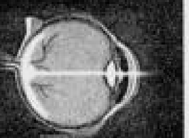
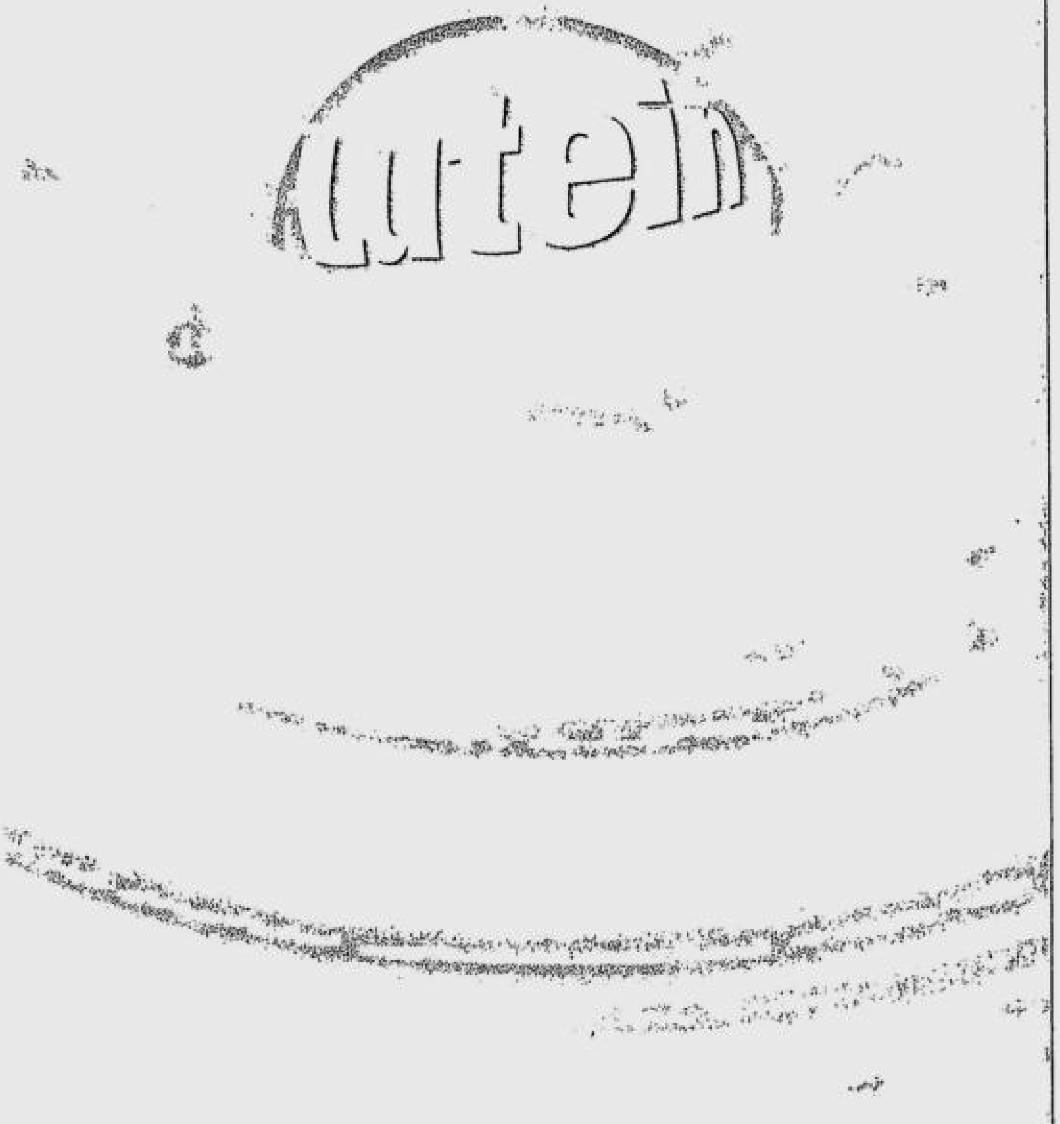
A child learns a lot from what she sees. But her developing eyes are sensitive to Blue Light. Blue Light is a wavelength within the visible spectrum of light. Your child is always exposed to it, whether she is indoors or outdoors. Studies show that Blue Light may affect your child's eyes without you knowing it. The greatest risk of Blue Light exposure occurs early in life. Thus, the developing eyes of young children are in particular need of care.



Lutein, a yellowish pigment in the retina, is a key nutrient for eye health. The presence of pigment that can effectively absorb Blue Light suggests it may help support the developing eye.[1,2] Researchers discovered that Lutein has two roles in supporting the eye – as a filter of Blue Light, and as an antioxidant to combat free radicals in the eyes.[3,4,5]

A child's young body cannot make its own Lutein. The most important time to consume Lutein may be during the younger years when the child's eyes are still developing. Lutein is found in leafy vegetables such as broccoli and lettuce. But these vegetables tend not to be toddlers' favorites,[6,7] so make sure your child gets enough Lutein from supplemental sources.

Help support your child's developing eyes.



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Warmest greeting to the officers and members of the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) as you hold the 28th Agora Awards.

Over the years, the Agora Awards has given due recognition to the distinguished individuals and companies that have shown outstanding performances in the fields of marketing management, entrepreneurship, marketing education, export marketing and advocacy marketing. The Awards chooses the marketing company of the year among the numerous members of PMA.

Indeed, through this Awards, and other projects, the PMA has significantly contributed to the country's remarkable economic turnaround. Because of your dedication and commitment, our marketing industry can lay claim to the honor of being among those instrumental in the tremendous growth of our country in the last few years.

My heartfelt congratulations to the awardees and may you always be an inspiration to others.

More power to all of you!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Cordial greetings to the Philippine Marketing Association as it hails another set of marketing legends during the 28th Agora Awards!

Indeed, this year's set of awardees elevates our pride and joy in knowing that within our borders lie a group of people whose world-class capabilities can compete in the international landscape.

More than serving as a fitting memento to the years they have toiled hard to attain their strong foothold today, this rite confirms their proudly Filipino-honed flair in marketing that spells excellence in an undoubtedly laudable manner.

Truly, the Philippine's long and arduous climb to the top has exposed the tenacity of the intrinsically inventive Filipino. My warmest congratulations to the board of officers and to the committee that made all these possible.

Mabuhay!

LYDIA ECHAUZ
Chair-Board of Judges

More than just a legacy, the Agora Awards has become a testament to the significant growth of the marketing industry in the country. The people who belong in the elite roster of Agora Greats are now living proofs on how ingenious and innovative the Filipinos essentially are.

This year's concept of putting forward what is truly Filipino only hypes the spirit of nationalism that this worthwhile project breathes and lives. For 28 years now, it has been giving the Filipinos across the globe reasons to keep their heads up high despite tough competition and baseless disparities that may have been posed by the people coming from more progressive countries.

Because of this, the search for individuals who have proven themselves to be emblems of pride in their respective industries is not just a daunting task for PMA. For us, this is a noble mission that should be put to heart.

Congratulations to the 2007 Agora Awards Committee for a job well done! May all of us continue to be partners in this never-ending advocacy of pushing marketing excellence in the country.

Global Ako! Angat Ako!

FREDERICK M. ALEGRE
President

History, culture and marketing records attest to the spirit of excellence in the Pilipino. Attributes like *palabra de honor* and *masinop* characterize the acclaim of the Pilipinos before the Spanish colonizers came. Pilipinos were considered the 'entrepot' of Asia then. Our cultural artifacts showcase our creativity and ingenuity of our craftsmanship and admirable attention to detail. No wonder the Pilipino is regarded a natural marketer. We can sell, promote, create, persuade, influence and... for the special breed... achieve.

For 28 years the Philippine Marketing Association has awarded such achievers, The AGORA. Today we honor these marketing legends whose achievements inspire us and challenge us to think out of the box, challenge the norm and create Greatness in the marketing firmament. From Philippine shores to the global world-stage, Pilipino excellence does shine through. The AGORA testifies to this fact.

The AGORA. For the outstanding. For the deserving. For the rare breed.

Mabuhay ang Galing Pilipino!

ERLINDA B. DE GUZMAN
2007 Agora Awards Director

The success of this year's search only highlights the fact that we as a Filipino nation have the power to compete in the international market. The search process may have been very challenging for us in the Search Committee but the fulfillment that we got after we finally came out with this year's set of winners, can never be matched.

Indeed, the new names that will be added to the country's marketing legends this year are deserving of recognition. Each of them have broken barriers and leaped over hurdles not just to help push their corporate goals but also to contribute to the country's progress as a whole.

I am greatly honored and at the same time humbled with their equally inspiring stories. It is high time that we underscore this to provide the Filipino nation apt models in their individual pursuits to marketing excellence.

More Power to us all!

JOJO AJERO
Over-all Chair

THE AGORA AWARD FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP-LARGE SCALE

Dennis Mendiola

President
Chikka Asia Inc.

Graduating double summa cum laude with degrees in BS Economics (Wharton) and BS Electrical Engineering (Moore) from the University of Pennsylvania, and later pursuing his MBA at the Harvard Business School, Dennis' scholastic training prepared him well for work, a career in consulting and investment banking with such global players as McKinsey Consulting, Morgan Stanley and Bankers Trust, at some of the world's important financial capitals.

Twice, however, his country beckoned. Early in 1992 to volunteer at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority attracting international investments in the erstwhile US Naval Base that was giving the country new hope of joining the ranks of Asian Tigers. And then again in 1996, to form Next Century Partners, a venture capital firm that would call the attention of more international investors to more investment opportunities in the country.

The emerging "New Economy" also beckoned to Mendiola, firing up a new passion. He saw an opportunity in marrying Instant Messaging, wildly popular among a global Internet community, and in text messaging, the rage in this part of the world. It was an ambitious project, requiring intricate solutions to cater to the habits of what was even then, the most advanced "texting" culture in the world, Filipinos.

In 2001, Mendiola, together with a group of young entrepreneurs, responded to the challenge of creating a messaging solution that would withstand SMS volume in a country sending 30 million messages daily, and claiming the title "Text Capital of the World." Mendiola launched the Chikka Text Messenger, the world's first instant messenger with integrated mobile features via SMS, and launched it in probably the world's most coveted mobile messaging market.

The Chikka Text Messenger became an integral part of Filipinos' lives everywhere, including overseas Filipino workers, and a diverse online community that quickly embraced and enjoyed Chikka for its ease of use and reliable mobile connectivity.

Mendiola has led Chikka to become a world-class wireless applications services provider, such that today, when the world seeks mobile solutions, they look to the Philippines, and are invariably referred to Mendiola's Chikka.

THE AGORA AWARD FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP-SMALL SCALE

Rossana L. Llenado

President
AHEAD Learning Systems, Inc.

Rossana Llenado's success lies in helping others succeed. She turned the tutorial and review service from a home-based operation to a full-fledged industry.

Staring in just a tiny apartment in 1995, AHEAD is now the leading and most awarded tutorial and review center in the Philippines. It has helped thousands of students get into the best universities, improve scholastic performance, and ultimately pursue their life goals.

Always reinventing her business, Rossana recently partnered with one of the country's best technological companies to expand her educational and training services through the latest technology. The partnership has resulted to the first online job search engine in Asia that allows job seekers and employers to send and receive video resumes and other creative online programs. Only four months old, it has already won a Philippine Quill excellence award for creating 15 million-worth of media value from a P30,000 budget. Rossana's ventures now include AHEAD Professional Network, AHEAD Books & Things, AHEAD Interactive, GoEnglish, and Englishoncam.

Hoping to constantly create avenues for students and professionals to excel and achieve their aspirations, she wholeheartedly serves her clients and treats every project as her own, and mentors her team to make sure that they share a common goal.

AHEAD, for her, is not simply a business endeavor, it is a dream being realized.

THE AGORA AWARD FOR EXPORT MARKETING

Coco Technologies Corporation

In 1999, the Foundation for a Sustainable Society Inc (FSSI) and Juboken Enterprises Inc (JUBOKEN) formed Coco Technologies Corporation (COCOTECH) to develop the coconut fiber industry in the country with an initial capitalization of P4 million.

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COCOTECH aims to contribute to the immediate rehabilitation of degraded lands while, at the same time, provide livelihood opportunities to low-income families. As part of its goal of economic empowerment for marginalized communities and households, more than 60 percent of revenues go directly to producer-families and/or communities while 50 percent of after-tax income will support sustainable enterprise projects that are ecologically sound, economically viable and community oriented. The company engages in the manufacture and marketing of coconut husk and related products.

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Dr. Sylvia Concepcion

Professor 2
University of the Philippines-Mindanao

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Her 28 years extensive experience in teaching and training young students and managers alike in the areas of marketing management and supply chain management, highlighted by her passion to achieve more in the field, made her a rightful choice for this year's Agora Award for Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education.

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PMA proudly welcomes this year's Agora Awardees into the illustrious company of previous winners. The PMA, now in its 53rd year, looks forward to continuing to use the Agora Awards as a platform for serving the marketing profession and the Filipino people.

Warmest greeting to the officers and members of the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) as you hold the 28th Agora Awards.

Over the years, the Agora Awards has given due recognition to the distinguished individuals and companies that have shown outstanding performances in the fields of marketing management, entrepreneurship, marketing education, export marketing and advocacy marketing. The Awards chooses the marketing company of the year among the numerous members of PMA.

Indeed, through this Awards, and other projects, the PMA has significantly contributed to the country's remarkable economic turnaround. Because of your dedication and commitment, our marketing industry can lay claim to the honor of being among those instrumental in the tremendous growth of our country in the last few years.

My heartfelt congratulations to the awardees and may you always be an inspiration to others.

More power to all of you!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Cordial greetings to the Philippine Marketing Association as it hails another set of marketing legends during the 28th Agora Awards!

Indeed, this year's set of awardees elevates our pride and joy in knowing that within our borders lie a group of people whose world-class capabilities can compete in the international landscape.

More than serving as a fitting memento to the years they have toiled hard to attain their strong foothold today, this rite confirms their proudly Filipino-honed flair in marketing that spells excellence in an undoubtedly laudable manner.

Truly, the Philippine's long and arduous climb to the top has exposed the tenacity of the intrinsically inventive Filipino. My warmest congratulations to the board of officers and to the committee that made all these possible.

Mabuhay!

LYDIA ECHAUZ
Chair-Board of Judges

More than just a legacy, the Agora Awards has become a testament to the significant growth of the marketing industry in the country. The people who belong in the elite roster of Agora Greats are now living proofs on how ingenious and innovative the Filipinos essentially are.

This year's concept of putting forward what is truly Filipino only hypes the spirit of nationalism that this worthwhile project breathes and lives. For 28 years now, it has been giving the Filipinos across the globe reasons to keep their heads up high despite tough competition and baseless disparities that may have been posed by the people coming from more progressive countries.

Because of this, the search for individuals who have proven themselves to be emblems of pride in their respective industries is not just a daunting task for PMA. For us, this is a noble mission that should be put to heart.

Congratulations to the 2007 Agora Awards Committee for a job well done! May all of us continue to be partners in this never-ending advocacy of pushing marketing excellence in the country.

Global Ako! Angat Ako!

FREDERICK M. ALEGRE
President

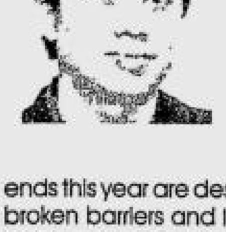
History, culture and marketing records attest to the spirit of excellence in the Pilipino. Attributes like *palabra de honor* and *masinop* characterize the acclaim of the Pilipinos before the Spanish colonizers came. Pilipinos were considered the 'entrepot' of Asia then. Our cultural artifacts showcase our creativity and ingenuity of our craftsmanship and admirable attention to detail. No wonder the Pilipino is regarded a natural marketer. We can sell, promote, create, persuade, influence and... for the special breed... achieve.

For 28 years the Philippine Marketing Association has awarded such achievers, The AGORA. Today we honor these marketing legends whose achievements inspire us and challenge us to think out of the box, challenge the norm and create Greatness in the marketing firmament. From Philippine shores to the global world-stage, Pilipino excellence does shine through. The AGORA testifies to this fact.

The AGORA. For the outstanding. For the deserving. For the rare breed.

Mabuhay ang Galing Pilipino!

ERLINDA B. DE GUZMAN
2007 Agora Awards Director



The success of this year's search only highlights the fact that we as a Filipino nation have the power to compete in the international market. The search process may have been very challenging for us in the Search Committee but the fulfillment that we got after we finally came out with this year's set of winners, can never be matched.

Indeed, the new names that will be added to the country's marketing legends this year are deserving of recognition. Each of them have broken barriers and leaped over hurdles not just to help push their corporate goals but also to contribute to the country's progress as a whole.

I am greatly honored and at the same time humbled with their equally inspiring stories. It is high time that we underscore this to provide the Filipino nation apt models in their individual pursuits to marketing excellence.

More Power to us all!

JOJO AJERO
Over-all Chair

THE AGORA AWARD FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP-LARGE SCALE

Dennis Mendiola

President
Chikka Asia Inc.

Graduating double summa cum laude with degrees in BS Economics (Wharton) and BS Electrical Engineering (Moore) from the University of Pennsylvania, and later pursuing his MBA at the Harvard Business School, Dennis' scholastic training prepared him well for work, a career in consulting and investment banking with such global players as McKinsey Consulting, Morgan Stanley and Bankers Trust, at some of the world's important financial capitals.

Twice, however, his country beckoned. Early in 1992 to volunteer at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority attracting international investments in the erstwhile US Naval Base that was giving the country new hope of joining the ranks of Asian Tigers. And then again in 1996, to form Next Century Partners, a venture capital firm that would call the attention of more international investors to more investment opportunities in the country.

The emerging "New Economy" also beckoned to Mendiola, firing up a new passion. He saw an opportunity in marrying Instant Messaging, wildly popular among a global Internet community, and in text messaging, the rage in this part of the world. It was an ambitious project, requiring intricate solutions to cater to the habits of what was even then, the most advanced "texting" culture in the world, Filipinos.

In 2001, Mendiola, together with a group of young entrepreneurs, responded to the challenge of creating a messaging solution that would withstand SMS volume in a country sending 30 million messages daily, and claiming the title "Text Capital of the World." Mendiola launched the Chikka Text Messenger, the world's first instant messenger with integrated mobile features via SMS, and launched it in probably the world's most coveted mobile messaging market.

The Chikka Text Messenger became an integral part of Filipinos' lives everywhere, including overseas Filipino workers, and a diverse online community that quickly embraced and enjoyed Chikka for its ease of use and reliable mobile connectivity.

Mendiola has led Chikka to become a world-class wireless applications services provider, such that today, when the world seeks mobile solutions, they look to the Philippines, and are invariably referred to Mendiola's Chikka.

THE AGORA AWARD FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP-SMALL SCALE

Rossana L. Llenado

President
AHEAD Learning Systems, Inc.

Rossana Llenado's success lies in helping others succeed. She turned the tutorial and review service from a home-based operation to a full-fledged industry.

Staring in just a tiny apartment in 1995, AHEAD is now the leading and most awarded tutorial and review center in the Philippines. It has helped thousands of students get into the best universities, improve scholastic performance, and ultimately pursue their life goals.

Always reinventing her business, Rossana recently partnered with one of the country's best technological companies to expand her educational and training services through the latest technology. The partnership has resulted to the first online job search engine in Asia that allows job seekers and employers to send and receive video resumes and other creative online programs. Only four months old, it has already won a Philippine Quill excellence award for creating 15 million-worth of media value from a P30,000 budget. Rossana's ventures now include AHEAD Professional Network, AHEAD Books & Things, AHEAD Interactive, GoEnglish, and Englishoncam.

Hoping to constantly create avenues for students and professionals to excel and achieve their aspirations, she wholeheartedly serves her clients and treats every project as her own, and mentors her team to make sure that they share a common goal.

AHEAD, for her, is not simply a business endeavor, it is a dream being realized.

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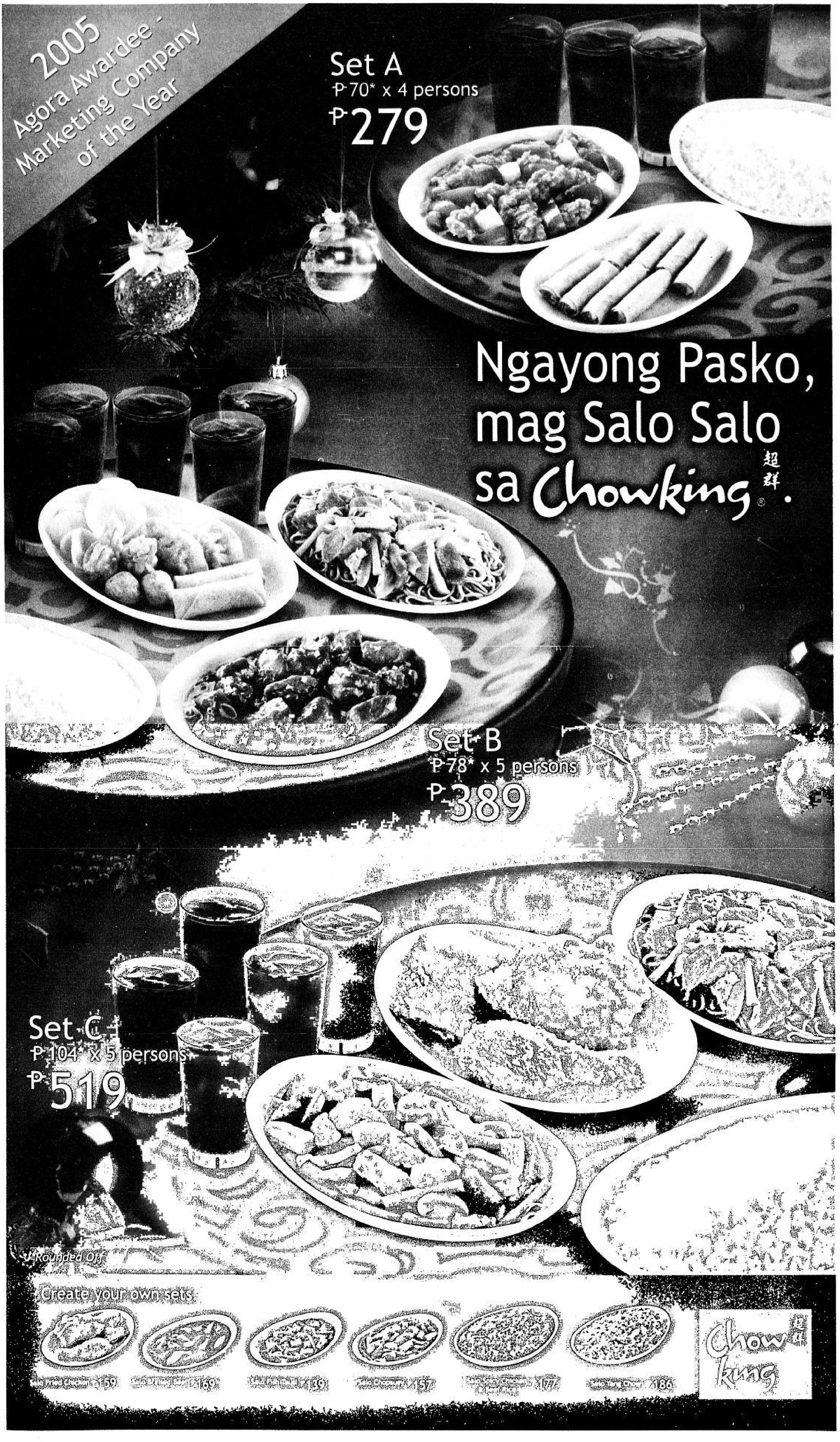
2005
Agora Awardee -
Marketing Company
of the Year
Set A
₱70* x 4 persons
₱279
Ngayong Pasko,
mag Salo Salo
sa Chowking 超群.
Set B
₱78* x 5 persons
₱389
Set C
₱104* x 5 persons
₱519
*Rounded Off
Create your own sets
Salo Fried Chicken ₱159
₱169
₱139
₱157
₱177
₱186
Chow king 超群

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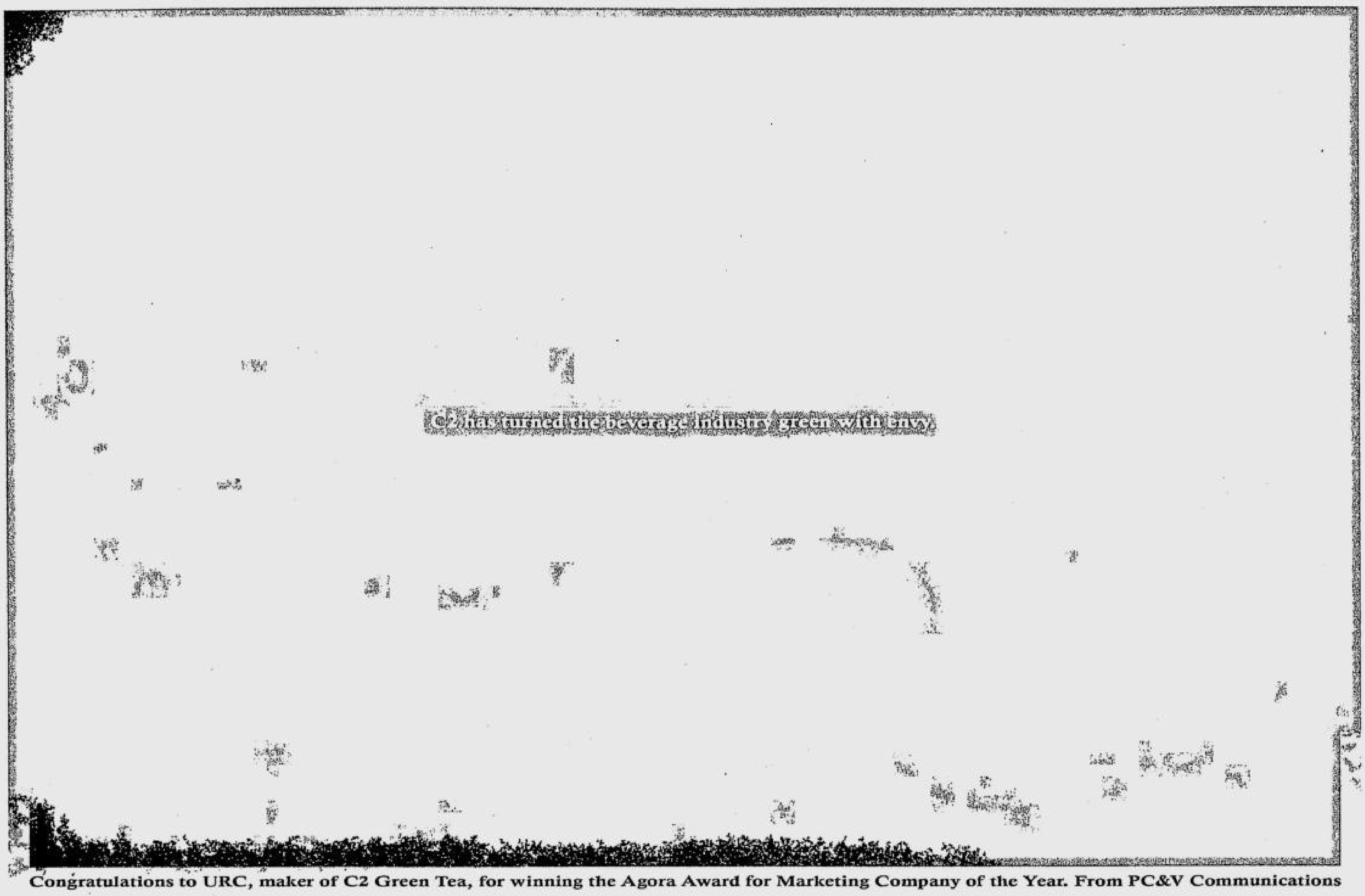
Carlo Rossi
Coca-Cola
ga printing inc
The Philippine Star Truth Shall Prevail
Ang Salon ng Bayan Bigote Haircutters



Congratulations to URC, maker of C2 Green Tea, for winning the Agora Award for Marketing Company of the Year. From PC&V Communications

The dream for excellence fulfilled.

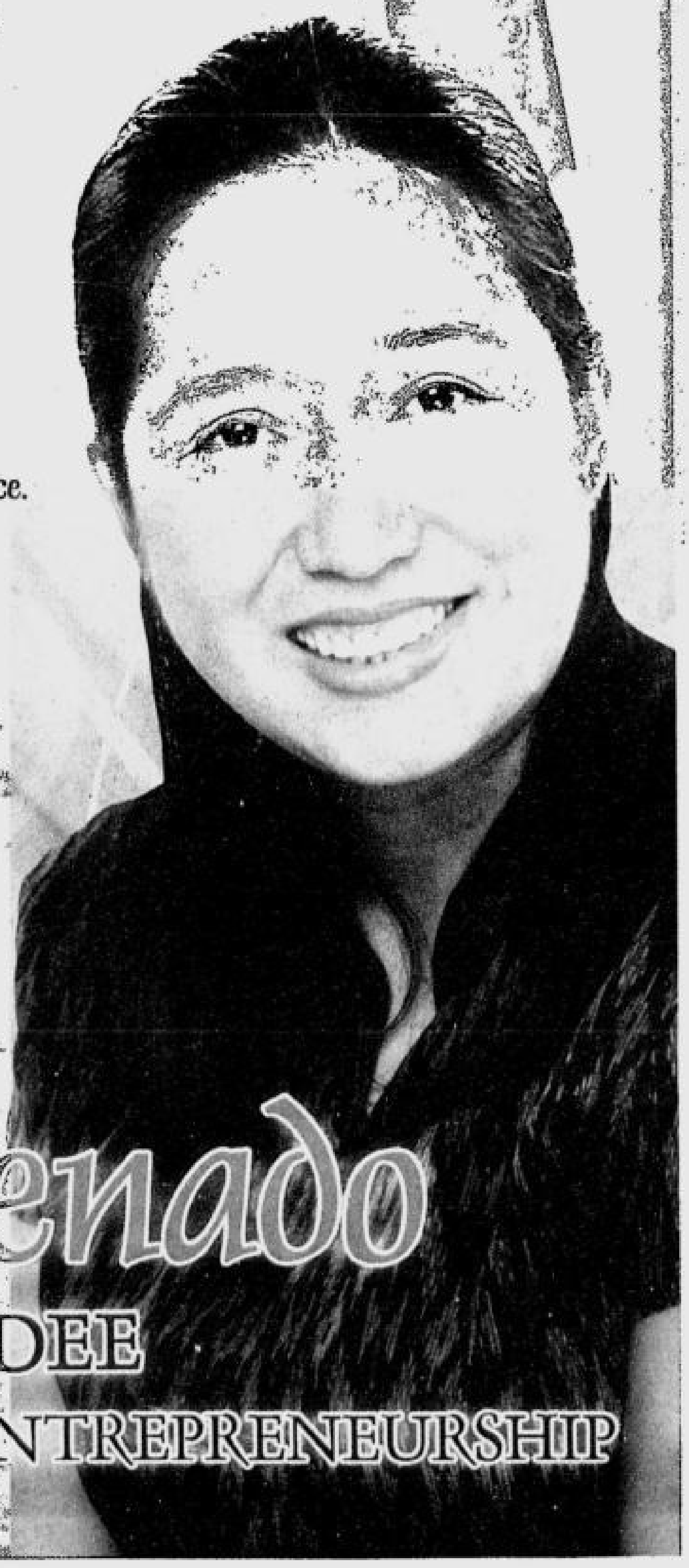
AHEAD Learning Systems, Inc.
AHEAD Tutorial & Review
AHEADPRO Ahead Professional Network
AHEAD interactive
AHEAD Books & Things
LESSM
TESSA
ocean8
GoEnglish
englishoncam.com

To many, excellence seems like a far-fetched dream.
For those who have the courage and determination, it's a standard.

For the past 12 years, AHEAD Learning Systems, Inc. has helped
students and professionals achieve their dream of success.
Its tutorial and review services have benefited
thousands of young people as they get excellent grades
and enter the best universities in the country.
Professional training courses lead individuals and companies
to better opportunities. AHEAD has likewise extended
its training services to teachers and principals, equipping them
with the right tools to lead their schools to outstanding performance.

Today, AHEAD makes another milestone. Its president
Rossana Llenado receives the Agora Award
from the Philippine Marketing Association
for her excellent performance in entrepreneurship.
It is another dream fulfilled.

Inspired by this recognition, AHEAD commits to providing
its stakeholders with the best and most innovative services ever.
With its various affiliate companies working hand-in-hand,
it makes success within everyone's reach.



Rossana L. Llenado

2007 AGORA AWARDEE

for OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Friday, November 30, 2007 ★★ 18 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 355 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

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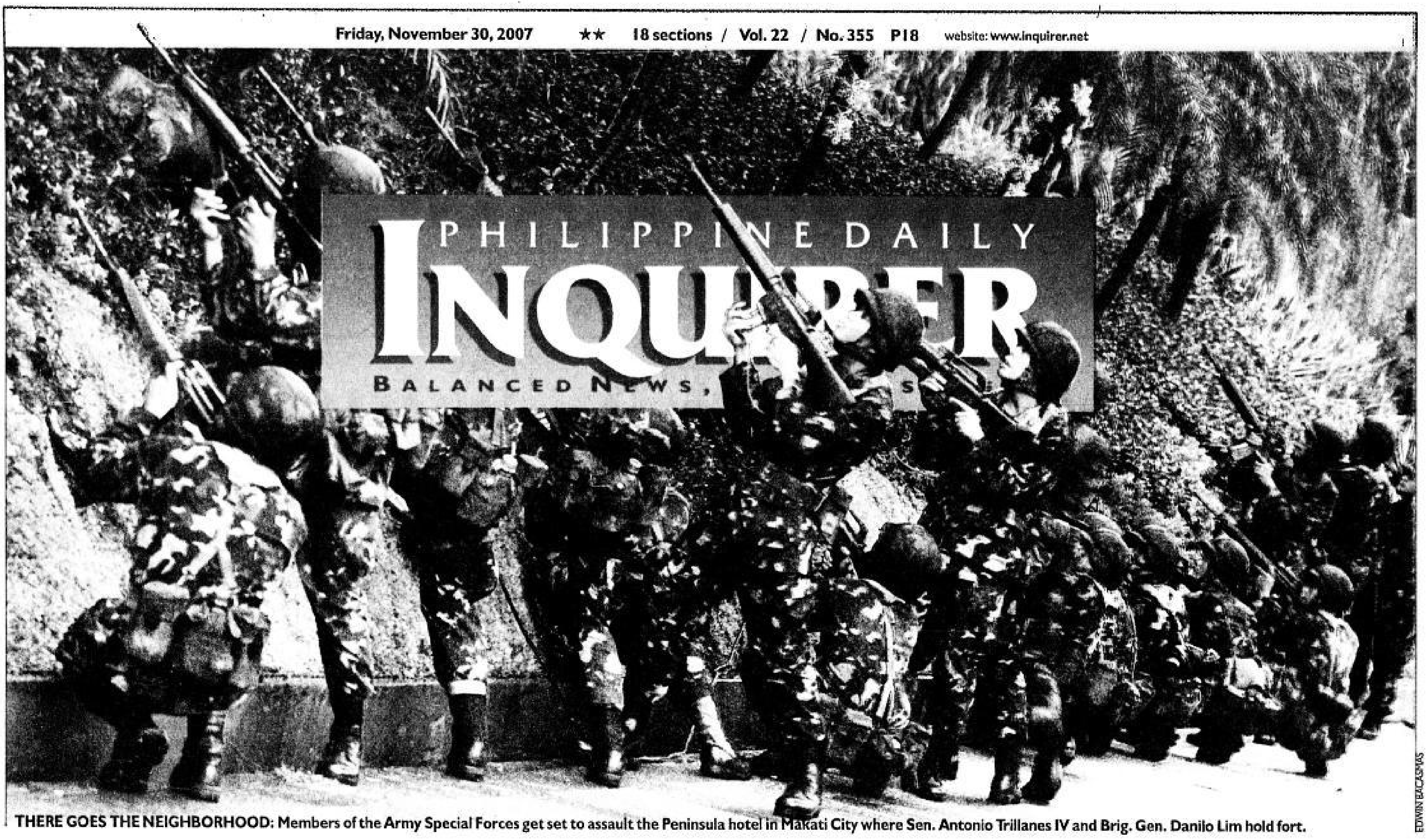
BALANCED NEWS,



THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Members of the Army Special Forces get set to assault the Peninsula hotel in Makati City where Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim hold fort. EDWIN BACASMAS

Trillanes revolt crushed

Stocks, peso go on roller coaster ride

By Ronnel W. Domingo, Doris C. Dumlao and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE PHILIPPINE PESO AND local stocks yesterday went on a roller-coaster ride as news of the Makati mutiny overshadowed news of buoyant economic growth and prospective investment flows into the country.

In the end, however, the peso and local stocks ended up higher as investors shrugged off the possibility that the small group of military rebels who occupied Makati's Peninsula hotel would succeed in overthrowing President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Just when everything was looking good ... we again shot ourselves in the foot," said Roland Avante, treasurer of

STOCKS/ A11

SANA NAG MILITARY WEDDING NA LANG

Rebellion with fine dining on the menu

By Volt Contreras

"I WAS FOR TRILLANES BEFORE, BUT this is a major change."

That was the pensive groom, Guderian Montaño, whose wedding reception booked for 8 last night at the Peninsula hotel in Makati City was canceled—a "ca-

REBELLION/ A8

LOVE IN A TIME OF MUTINY: Rian Montaño and Mars Magpayo were to have their wedding party at the Peninsula but they could not. REM ZAMORA

PNP says 101 arrested inside Peninsula

By Volt Contreras, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., DJ Yap and Julie Aurelio

FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THE PRESIDENCY OF GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo, the country's financial district came close to becoming a battle zone.

"DRAGGED LIKE A COMMON CRIMINAL," a PDI reporter describes the handling of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV while being herded up a bus for Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan after giving up to the police to avoid hurting his civilian supporters, he says. (More photos on Page A23.) EDWIN BACASMAS

After a daring courtroom walkout that went unchecked by their security escorts, renegade officers on trial for the 2003 Oakwood mutiny—led by Navy lieutenant and now Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV—again sought to seize a posh Makati City hotel.

They expected civilian support and military defections for a people power uprising in a renewed call for the overthrow of the Arroyo administration.

But this time, government negotiators were not as patient, gave a shorter deadline, and—with a swift tear gas attack—forced the surrender of the rebel soldiers and a handful of allies from religious and leftist groups.

The assault team began firing warning shots at 4:45 p.m. Nine soldiers were deployed to the second floor lobby of the Manila Peninsula hotel, armed with long firearms. Others were stationed at the side entrances but carried only pistols.

At 5:02 p.m., hazy smoke which later turned out to be tear gas began permeating the hotel lobby, forcing the rebel soldiers and media people to retreat into the inner rooms.

Continuous gun fire from three armored personnel carriers went on for more than 15 minutes, presumably to destroy the front entrance of the hotel. One APC crashed into the hotel entrance at around 5:12 p.m., with the silhouettes of the assaulting team making their way toward the left wing where Trillanes had holed up.

More than 15 minutes later, police ushered the first group of media people out of the hotel, detaining some of them

TRILLANES/ A19

Gov't imposes curfew in Metro Manila

By Michael Lim Ubac, Christine O. Avendaño and Alcuin Papa

IN A MOVE THAT BROUGHT BACK memories of Ferdinand Marcos' harsh rule, Malacañang last night imposed a midnight-to-dawn curfew in Metro Manila and surrounding provinces, hours after repelling another challenge to President Macapagal-Arroyo's leadership.

Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon said the midnight-to-5 a.m. curfew would cover "all citizens," except those responding to emergencies or who had valid reasons to be out of their homes during the night. *(Exceptions on Page A19.)*

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said at a press conference the curfew would be implemented in Metro Manila and all the provinces, municipalities and cities in Central Luzon (Region 3) and Southern Tagalog (Region 4-a).

"Hopefully the curfew will be limited overnight, (or) one day," said Puno.

The late dictator Marcos imposed a nationwide curfew when he proclaimed martial law in September 1972.

Malacañang invoked the "police power of the state" and announced the curfew shortly after repulsing a fresh challenge to the Arroyo presidency hurled by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and their supporters, who had occupied portions of the Manila Peninsula hotel in Makati City.

Puno said members of the media would be allowed to venture out into

GOV'T/ A19

Guidelines/exceptions

By Christine O. Avendaño

FOREIGN DIPLOMATS, LEGITIMATE media people, people with emergency cases or taking late or early domestic or foreign flights, police and soldiers and doctors on actual duty are among those exempted from the 5-hour curfew.

But the people or groups exempted from the curfew should be able to present identification cards to police manning the checkpoints, according to the guidelines issued late last night by Malacañang.

The curfew shall cover "all persons residing, visiting, working or travel-

GUIDELINES/ A19

It all began with Lim on witness stand

By Julie M. Aurelio, Volt Contreras and Leila B. Salaverria

THE "SITUATION" HAPPENED SHORTLY after a recess.

And it took less than 10 seconds for Lt. James Layug to take yesterday's lone witness by the arm and escort him out of the courtroom in what seemed like a prelude to another Oakwood mutiny.

Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim had resumed his testimony on how the negotiations went between the government and the Magdalo group that led the 2003 mutiny when Layug, one of the accused officers, rose from his seat and made straight for the witness stand.

Not one among the security detail stepped forward to stop Layug, who was dressed in camouflage fatigues and a black scarf, as he opened the panel enclosing the witness stand, took Lim by the left arm and led him out.

IT ALL BEGAN/ A10

30 reporters held, probed, released

By Julie M. Aurelio and Alcuin Papa

IT WAS AN UNWELCOME SURPRISE for nearly 30 reporters and cameramen inside the Manila Peninsula in Makati City after a police assault ended the tension-filled occupation of the hotel by rebel soldiers at 6:30 last night.

The journalists simply could not refuse the "invitation" and were hauled onto a bus that brought them to the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) headquarters at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City, for questioning at 9 p.m.

Earlier in the day, Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the gov-

30 REPORTERS/ A22

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: ELIZA VICTORIA, PDI RESEARCH/11/29/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

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Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

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Bidder asked: Why wage war?

Consortium must qualify for Transco bidding, says solon

By Norman Bordadora

OPPOSITION REP. TEODORO LOCSIN yesterday asked a disqualified bidder which denounced the allegedly rigged bidding for the country's transmission grid to comply with the requirements and they might still have a chance.

Locsin said he was told by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) that La Costa Development Corp. may still be in the running if it can comply with certain requirements, mainly a bank certification that it has the ability to fund its bid to buy the National Transmission Corp. (Transco).

"I asked La Costa if they wanted to be included [in the bidding] or if they want to wage war. If it's a war they want, it's a war they'll get," Locsin said in telephone interview.

"If you're serious in taking part in the bidding, you cannot just attack. If there is a small opening, at least try to get in," Locsin said.

La Costa, a consortium headed by businessman Salvador Zamora II, a brother of opposition Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, and former finance secretary Roberto de Ocampo, filed a court case to stop the bidding for Transco after it was disqualified in the pre-qualification bidding, alleging "foul play" in the privatization process.

Disqualifying La Costa

It accused Jose Ibazeta, the president of Psalm, the state-owned corporation that manages state-owned power assets and facilities, and other unnamed officials of committing graft when they disqualified La Costa from participating in the bidding.

La Costa asked the Makati court to stop a scheduled bidding for Transco on Dec. 12 unless it is allowed to take part in it.

The opposition in Congress promptly got on board the issue, denouncing the alleged ties between Ibazeta and other administration officials with one of the four consortiums that have been prequalified for the Dec. 12 bidding.

Locsin said people who were trying to help La Costa asked him to deliver a privilege speech denouncing the allegedly rigged bidding for Transco.

He said he talked with Ibazeta and was told La Costa still has a chance to qualify for the bidding if it complies with the requirement that it produce a bank certificate to show that the firm alone, without its partners in the consortium, has the ability to come up with the money to fund an equity investment of $300 million.

'Just comply'

Over his program on dwIZ radio yesterday, Locsin asked De Ocampo to comply with the Psalm's pre-bidding requirement.

"I talked to Nono Ibazeta and he said why don't they comply.... At least make the effort to comply," Locsin told De Ocampo during the radio program.

Asked by De Ocampo if La Costa's compliance would give them a shot at the bidding, Locsin said: "He's open to it but he's just one man. The board will decide but meet him half-way."

If Psalm still disqualifies La Costa even with its compliance with the requirement, Locsin said "then they will be holding the bidding under a cloud of doubt."

He said it will be a matter for the Joint Congressional Power Commission to look into. The JCPC, which includes representatives from both chambers of Congress, sets the guidelines and overall framework for monitoring the proper implementation of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) which deregulated the power industry in 2001.

Stopping transco sale

This developed as an independent congressman, Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla, called on the government to stop the sale of Transco pending a review of Epira that mandates the privatization of the country's power assets.

Padilla, the congressman who first denounced the allegedly anomalous ZTE National Broadband Network contract, said the alleged rigging of the Dec. 12 bidding "has all the more made it imperative to suspend the planned privatization" of Transco.

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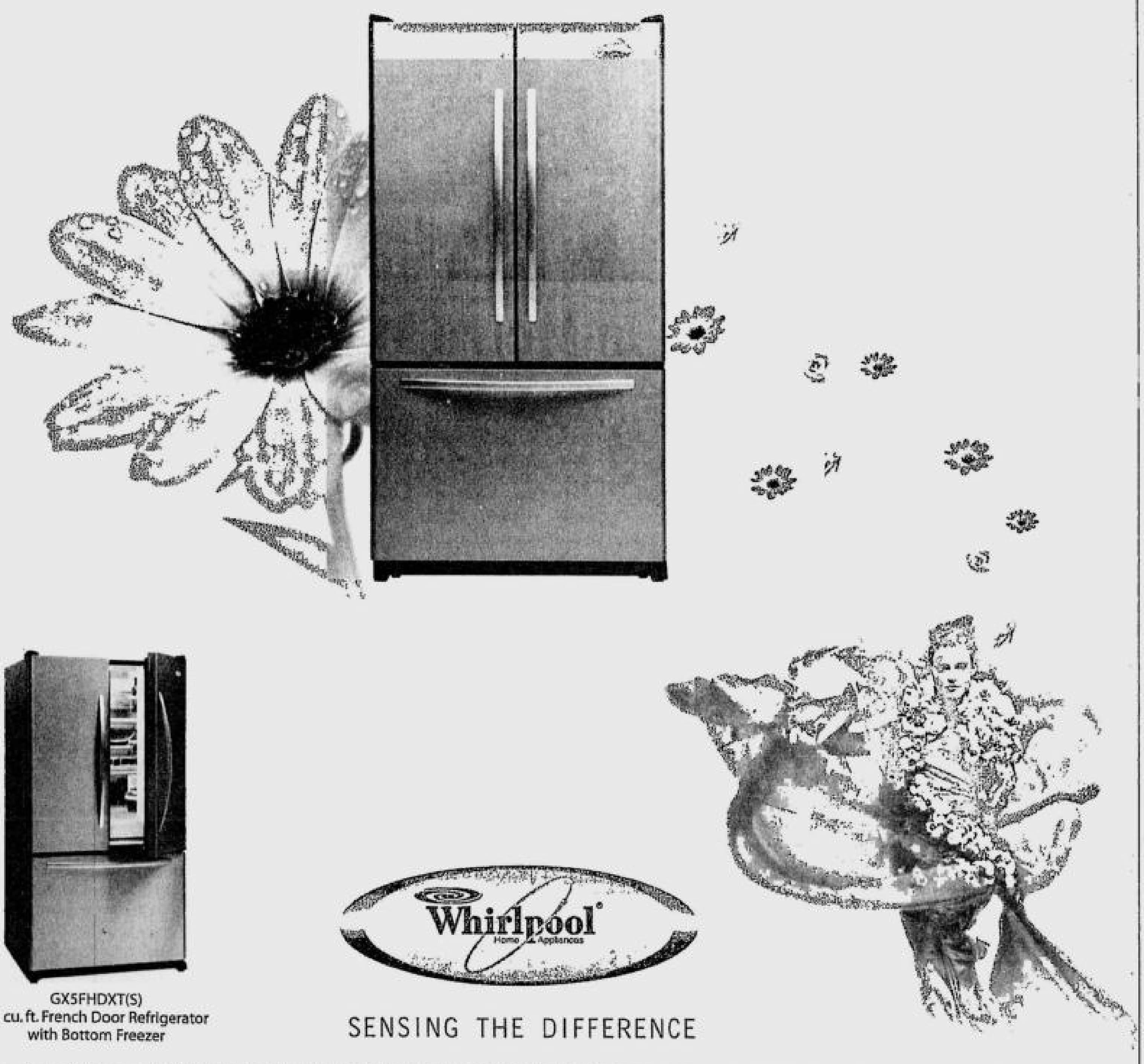

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JDV: Accuser got it wrong

HOUSE SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA HAS told the House committee on justice that his son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, was no longer on the board of Multi-Media Telephony, Inc., when the company was granted a legislative franchise in 1995.

In an executive summary of his answer to the the ethics complaint filed against him by lawyer Roel Pulido, De Venecia denied having used his office to extend any special privileges to Joey whom he described as being one of those who pioneered broadband technology in the country.

"What is apparent in this case is that Pulido maliciously made use of and attached in his verified complaint the copies of the general information sheet of MTI as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in year 2005 ... to create a false and wrongful impression," De Venecia said.

Pulido alleged that MTI, which Joey de Venecia owned, managed to secure several legislative franchises from Congress in 1995 and 1997 during the incumbency of De Venecia.

De Venecia, in an answer prepared for him by lawyer Raul Lambino, said the articles of incorporation showed that his son Joey was neither an incorporator nor an officer of the MTI in the years mentioned.

He said he could just have filed "a one-page-one-paragraph pleading" in a motion to dismiss the complaint but opted to file an answer "in order to shed light on the malicious accusations against him and to set a precedent and guidance to everyone." *Norman Bordadora*

RP appointed to WTO body

THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN APPOINTED anew to the World Trade Organization's dispute settlement body, a "demonstration of the international community's recognition of the country's contributions to multilateral trade," the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The DFA said Philippine Permanent Representative to the WTO in Geneva Ambassador Lilia Bautista was appointed to the WTO Appellate Body on Tuesday, along with three nominees from the United States, Japan and China.

Bautista will serve a four-year term beginning in December.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said the Philippines' appointment to the Appellate Body "clearly demonstrated the international community's trust and confidence in the Philippines and our commitment to the multilateral rules-based trading system and the dispute settlement system in the WTO."

Romulo cited Bautista's "sterling record of service" as a scholar, legal practitioner, policy maker, diplomat, trade negotiator and government regulator in the field of law, trade and economics.

He said Bautista received the full support of the WTO members.

"With her experience and expertise, Ambassador Bautista's appointment will allow the Philippines to continue contributing actively and effectively as a member of the WTO Appellate Body. We are grateful for the trust and support of the WTO members, including fellow member states from Asean," Romulo said. *Cynthia D. Balana*

WHAT'S INSIDE

VILLAR PLAYS coy as NP turns 100 /A5

EXODUS of RP geologists hampers mapping project /A9

Increase in debt service, cut in health budget assailed

By Jerome Aning

THE FREEDOM FROM DEBT COALITION (FDC) yesterday expressed its "serious disappointment" over the decision of the Senate finance committee to restore P12.1 billion to service foreign debts but slash P4.2 billion for health services from the P1.2-trillion 2008 national budget that had been approved by the House of Representatives.

The national budget, otherwise known as the General Appropriations Act (GAA), is now with the Senate for its input and approval before being sent to the bicameral conference committee for final fine-tuning prior to its signing into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile chairs the finance committee.

"Instead of helping break the momentum of indebtedness and replicating the political courage manifested by the lower house in reclaiming the power of the purse, Senator Enrile has chosen the easy way out—staying loyal to Malacañang's original yet socially parsimonious budget," said outgoing FDC president Ana Maria Nemenzo.

The FDC and other cause-oriented groups had earlier praised House Bill 2454, the lower chamber's version of the GAA, for its provisions addressing debt service payments and earmarking an additional P17.8 billion for social services like education and health.

The P17 billion was sourced from the P6 billion in savings resulting from the favorable US dollar exchange rate and P11 billion in suspended debt interest payments dubbed by the FDC as illegitimate.

The Senate finance committee, however, restored the cuts "to provide more legroom for the payment of interest on so-called tainted or fraudulent loans." It also identified P5.7 billion in savings from the favorable foreign exchange rate.

"Regardless of what foreign exchange rate they used, the Senate refused to make a political stand against illegitimate debts that continuously drain our national coffers and deprive the people of basic social services they deserve," Nemenzo said.

The FDC, comparing the Senate version of the GAA with that of the lower house on social service appropriations, said the following cuts were made:

- P4.2 billion from the proposed House health budget increase of P4.7 billion;
- P643 million from the proposed House education budget increase of P5.2 billion;
- P939 million from the House-proposed state colleges and universities budget increase of P1.13 billion.

"The lower house's decision to include special provisions suspending debt service payments for illegitimate debts 'pending loan renegotiations or condonation' was a step in the right direction. The question is: Can the Senate match this bold move and muster the political will to address the issue of illegitimate debts?" Nemenzo said.

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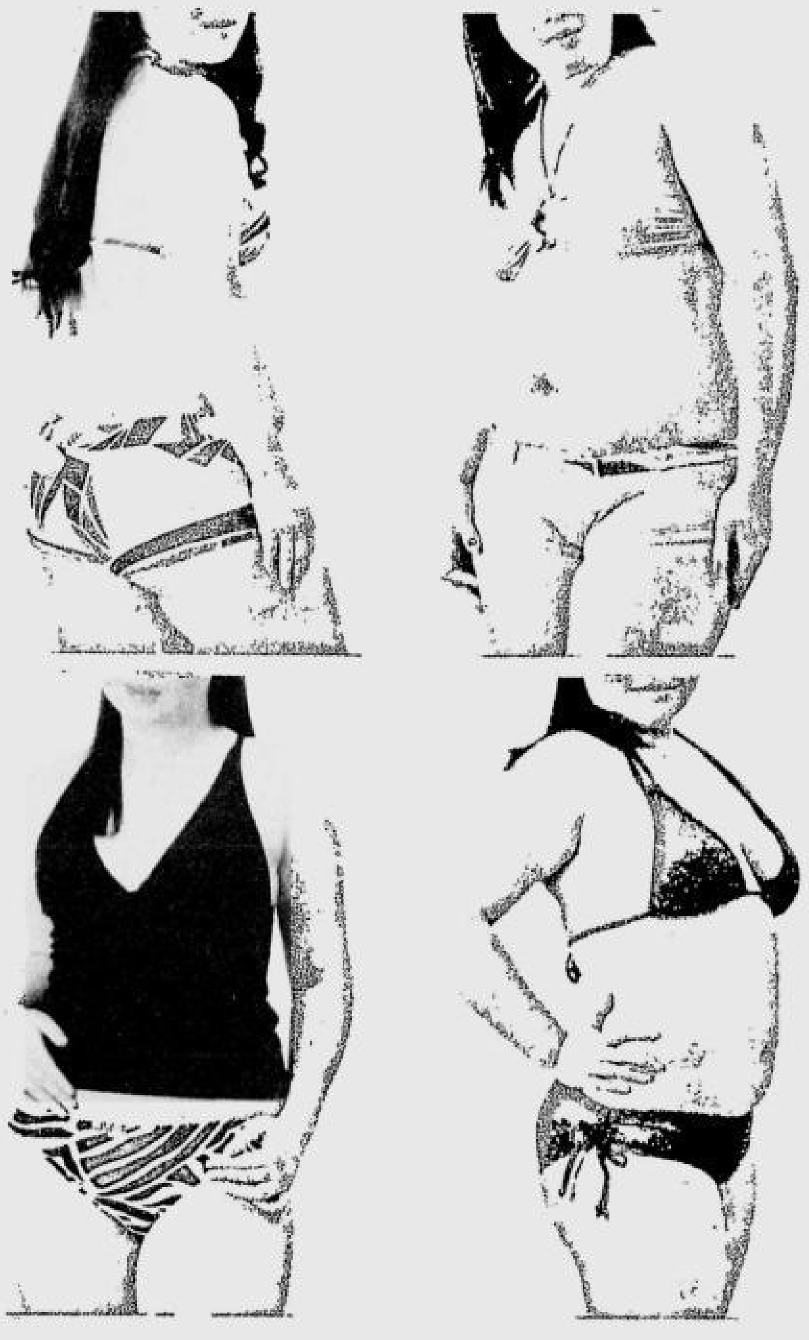

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Gen. Danny Lim's full statement at the Peninsula: Die is cast

TODAY, WE ADDRESS ALL AND decent Filipinos, to announce that now is the time to end the sufferings and miseries inflicted upon us by the illegitimate Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Government and start a new life and a new Philippines.

The die is cast.

Pursuant to our constitutional mandate as "protector of the people and the State," and by this act, the patriotic officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, supported by the masses of our people and the various political forces, give substance to the constitutional provision which says, "The Philippines is a democratic and republican state. Sovereignty resides in the people, and all government authority emanates from them."

Thus, we take the fateful step of removing Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from the Presidency and undertake the formation of a new government.

Stole the presidency

Mrs Arroyo had occupied the Presidency under a questionable mandate, publicly disputed by the vast majority of Filipinos. She stole the presidency from President Joseph Ejercito Estrada through unconstitutional and deceitful means, and later, manipulated the results of the 2004 elections to perpetuate herself in power.

We have individually and collectively tried all means to resolve this legitimacy issue through the normal electoral, judicial and congressional processes.

But Mrs Arroyo used naked power through the issuance of EO 464 and other executive proclamations, and the sheer weight of numbers to paralyze the impeachment process—procured at the people's great expense—to frustrate us at every turn.

After all these had failed, our people tried to air their grievances in peaceful street assemblies. They thought they were exercising a combination of constitutional rights, which no official or agency of government may legally abridge. But they were stopped and dispersed violently with water cannons from firemen and truncheons from the police.

Abuses continue

The abuses of her government continue. The deliberate refusal or failure of the dubious leaders to investigate and prosecute the people responsible for the scandalous "Hello Garci" electoral cheating, the Jocjoc Bolante multimillion peso fertilizer scam, the Impsa bribery scandal, the "Jose Pidal" and the jueteng scandals involving billions of public funds, the Northrail Project scandal, the Venable contract scandal, the NBN scandal, wholesale bribery of congressmen and governors in Malacañang, as well as the unabated and resolved extrajudicial killings of citizens, particularly journalists and members of the judiciary, and the use of military and police officers for some unlawful missions, among others, are clear proof her failure of good and decent governance.

There are numerous illegal and immoral activities and transactions conducted by this government with impunity that betray the citizens and the State of their pristine right to exist as a people with decency, dignity and integrity.

Avenues closed

With all the avenues closed by the use of naked force, no other means remain but for the officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to exercise their constitutional mandate take the side of the sovereign Filipino people against the illegitimate 'president.'

We beg your indulgence and apologize for any temporary disruptions attendant to fighting this righteous cause. We are confident that the will of the sovereign people will prevail. The end of the corrupt and vicious government and its bogus leaders is long overdue.

Call on the people

We support the political and economic reforms that will be initiated by the new government, regardless of the personal cost it may impose upon each one of us.

We, therefore, call on all our people and all the governments around the world to give the constitutional rescue initiated by our patriotic brothers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police a chance to work.

To the task of organizing a new government, and pursuing a program of total and no-nonsense reform, we commit our full support.

God bless the people

We shall do whatever we can do to prevent any backsliding to the corruption and abuse of power of the immediate past, and advance the cause of truth, freedom, justice, peace and progress for all Filipinos.

God bless the Filipino people. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

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Is it a coup, mutiny, putsch, situation, or what?

By Minerva Generalao and Eliza Victoria
Inquirer Research

WHEN ASKED BY A reporter what term to use to describe what was happening at the Manila Peninsula, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that it was a "situation."

Felipe Miranda, political science professor at the University of the Philippines, agreed that it was a "situation" albeit a "critical situation."

Miranda said that this was because the impact would not be so much with the civilian population but with those within the military as the "situation" may make them make up their mind, take sides and quietly do some things.

Political analyst Jose Abueva said in a phone interview that the "situation" could be considered a mutiny "in a sense, since [former Army Scout Ranger chief Brig. Gen. Danilo] Lim and [Sen. Antonio] Trillanes are military people."

Both Trillanes and Lim have asked the President's resignation, with Lim calling for the formation of a new government in a statement read on TV.

Abueva said that what Trillanes and company had staged cannot be considered a coup d'etat since a coup required an "armed attempt to remove an official."

Sudden, swift action

Miranda also said that calling the "situation" a coup was not quite accurate. He said that a coup involved sudden and swift action but both Lim and Trillanes had repeatedly voiced their grievances and their call for the resignation of President Arroyo for some time now.

Trillanes demanded the resignation of Ms Arroyo in July 2003 when he led over 300 soldiers in what is now called the Oakwood Mutiny, also in Makati City.

According to Abueva, what term to use is not the point.

"The point is, if the government can't stop these seditious people, the government will lose authority. The President will lose her legitimacy," he said.

The terms used to refer to political action against an authority or a government by the military include the following:

Coup d'état or simply coup: A sudden and decisive action in politics, especially one resulting in a change of government illegally or by force. The term is French and literally means "stroke concerning the state" (coup, hit, and état, state).

Putsch: A plotted revolt or attempt to overthrow a government especially one that depends upon suddenness and speed. The Swiss German word literally means violent blow, clash or shock. It was introduced in the sense of a "coup" to refer to Swiss popular uprisings in the 1830s, especially the Zurich revolt of September 1839.

Mutiny: Concerted disobedience or seditious action by persons in military or naval service, or by sailors on commercial vessels. Mutiny may range from a combined refusal to obey orders to active revolt or going over to the enemy on the part of two or more persons. In the Armed Forces it is considered one of the gravest crimes against military law.

Rebellion: Open, organized, and armed resistance to one's government or ruler. In the most general sense, a refusal to accept authority and may include a range of action and behaviors from civil disobedience to a violent organized attempt to destroy established authority. Those who participate in rebellions are known as "rebels."

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- Accredited architects / interior designers Category II - Student
- Open to all students of interior design in all schools and universities in the Philippines offering BSID program

2. Age bracket —18-45 years old inclusive

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4. Entry forms must be signed by department chair or school head, or PIID director for competition
5. All entry forms should include an affidavit as required

II. Competition Problem/Corresponding Sizes

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Living Room	50-60sqm	30-40sqm
Bedroom	40-50sqm	25-30sqm

III. Presentation Requirements
- Design rationale of not more than 200 words typewritten - double spaced - regular size bond paper
- Drawings. Scaled floor plan
Reference ceiling plan
Wall elevation
- Rendered interior perspective - scale 1 30 (15"x20" board)
- Image and color board with actual swatches of materials

B. Submission Mechanics
1 Entries may be submitted to all Wilcon outlets nationwide (deadline is January 31, 2008). Outlets are Libis at Rodriguez Jr Ave, Ugong Norte, Libis, Q.C.; Las Piñas at Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas; Balintawak at EDSA Balintawak, Q.C.; Pasong Tamo at Pasong Tamo, Makati; Quirino at Mindanao Ave., Brgy. Talipapa, Q.C.; Filinvest Alabang at Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa; Quezon Avenue, Quezon City; Ortigas at Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City; Muñoz at EDSA Balintawak, Quezon City; Pasay at Malibay, Pasay City; Mindanao Avenue at Bahay Toro, Quezon City; Libis at E. Rodriguez Jr. Bagumbayan, Quezon City; Davao at Matina, Davao City. Entries sent to Wilcon via the standard registered package or by courier must be postmarked by January 31, 2008. For inquiries, call 634-8387

2. All entries must be properly labeled with the following:
- Professional or Student
- Category (Boutique, Bathroom & Toilet, Living Room, Bedroom)
- Designated Application Number indicated in the registration form
- Date of Submission

3. All participants must submit the following documents
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- Certification from school or from PIID that participant is duly enrolled in his/her school or is a current member of the PIID.

4. Participants can submit an entry in all categories.
5. Contest is free.
7. Failure to comply with the rules and regulations shall automatically disqualify the participant.
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Third Prize: Hong Kong vacation package (3 days and 2 nights) for two (2) persons plus $300 pocket money and a trophy
Seven (7) finalists will receive P10,000 Wilcon gift certificates each and a trophy.

2. For the student group:
First Prize: P40,000 and a trophy
Second Prize: P25,000 and a trophy
Third Prize. P15,000 and a trophy

3. The winning entries shall be executed and exhibited by Wilcon in its Libis depot, using products only at Wilcon Builders. The winners shall supervise the 2-month construction of the winning designs and shall receive a supervision fee of P20,000 for the professional group and P10,000 for the student group.

4. Non-winning entries can be retrieved by the participant or his duly authorized representative immediately after the announcement of the winners. Entries not retrieved after 30 days will become the property of Wilcon.

5. Wilcon Builders' Depot reserves the right to use and execute the winning design entries for any and all legal purposes. All decisions of the Board of Judges shall be final and cannot be appealed.

Villar plays coy as NP turns 100

By Dona Pazzibugan

VILLAR

SENATE PRESIDENT MANUEL VILLAR JR. coyly avoided any reference to the 2010 presidential election, which he is widely believed to be contesting, during the Nacionalista Party centennial anniversary late Wednesday.

But the theme of the festivities, "100 *Taong Sipag at Tiyaga sa Paglilingkod sa Bayan*" (100 Years of Industry and Perseverance in Service to the Nation) said it all. The phrase is Villar's campaign slogan and the event had all the signs of being a launching of a candidacy.

"We believe it [NP] will be the party that will give us the first President for the next 100 years," Sen. Alan Cayetano declared in his welcome remarks, referring to Villar, the party's president.

The NP was found in 1907 and has produced six presidents—Manuel Quezon, Sergio Osmeña, Ramon Magsaysay, Jose Laurel, Carlos P. Garcia and Ferdinand Marcos.

Old rival

The Liberal Party, the NP's old rival, staged its own launch of its possible 2010 standard-bearer earlier this week, electing Sen. Manuel Roxas as party president. Roxas is allied with the Drilon faction of the LP which is split between former Sen. Franklin Drilon and Environment Secretary Lito Atienza.

In his speech, Villar said he would focus on the party's program and platform reviving nationalism.

"Nationalism is not an old-fashioned idea that was relevant in the times of Rizal and Quezon. It is simply putting the welfare of the nation above all," Villar said.

"The next chapter in the journey of the Nacionalista Party and the nation is the fight for economic independence, the moving force that will propel us to victory is the spirit of nationalism," he said.

Lavish show

A formal dinner and lavish show with Villar on center stage marked the celebrations. Villar treated about 1,000 members, supporters and guests, including Speaker Jose de Venecia, to a sit-down dinner at the PICC reception hall.

Guests were also entertained by well-staged production numbers put together by noted television directors Bert de Leon and Kitchie Benedicto.

With an audio-visual presentation playing on three wide screens on the stage, Villar paid tribute to previous NP presidents—Quezon, Osmeña, former senators Jose Yulo, Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez, Gil Puyat, former congressman Jose Laurel Jr. and former Vice President Salvador Laurel.

Among those who attended the celebration were former Sen. Ralph Recto, Representatives Carlos Padilla and Teofisto Guingona III, Quezon Gov. Wilfrido Enverga and Pasay Mayor Pablo Trinidad. Former Cavite congressman Gilbert Remulla emceed the program.

Malacañang yesterday said that it was still too early to talk about the presidential elections in 2010, reminding everyone that the country had just come from an election just six months ago.

Talk of governance

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters that President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted to focus now on governance and addressing the concerns of the country and that there was a proper time to deal with politics.

"Let's first talk of governance, things that would effectively improve the quality life of the people rather than talk of too much politics," he said.

With the LP and NP being members of the administration coalition, Ermita was asked whether the move by the two parties to launch their 2010 bids indicated they were leaving the coalition, Ermita said it was "quite early" to make a statement on this.

Asked whether Villar or Roxas could become the administration presidential candidate, Ermita said: "Why not. Anything is possible in politics."

Meanwhile, a spokesperson of the United Opposition said the resurgent LP and NP would still need the support of deposed President Joseph Estrada and the UNO to make a successful bid for the presidency in 2010.

Don't count out Erap

"You can never count out Erap. "I can go as far as say that if [the LP and the NP] want to win, they will have to ask the support of Erap," said lawyer Adel Tamano.

"UNO still exists and is still a political force," Tamano said.

The UNO senatorial slate in the last elections included NP members Villar and Cayetano and LP member Sen. Benigno Aquino III.

Tamano said UNO has presidential candidates of its own, citing Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

He said there were also some legal experts who have said that Estrada, who was convicted for plunder last September but immediately pardoned by Ms Arroyo before he could start serving his life sentence, is eligible to run for President. *With reports from Christine Avendaño and Norman Bordadora*

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Judges hit House for judiciary's budget cut

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINE JUDGES ASSOciation has deplored the House of Representatives' move to cut by P4 billion the proposed P14.34-billion budget for 2008 of the judiciary.

In a statement read by its president, Manila Judge Antonio Eugenio Jr., the PJA said it deplored "in the strongest possible terms" the drastic reduction which it said was unexpected and never explained by the House.

Eugenio said PJA officials met with senators later yesterday to ask them to restore the P4 billion taken out by the House.

"How can justice be swiftly dispensed in darkened courtrooms where water and telephone lines are close to being cut? How can judges perform their duties efficiently when threats to their lives and limb are not properly addressed, resulting in courtrooms in hazardous areas being rendered vacant and forcing judges to preside over two, three or even four courts at the time," PJA said.

The judges said congressmen should not be "stingy" towards a co-equal branch of government, saying "the lack of sufficient funding will inevitably lead to undue delay in the dispensation of justice and, ultimately, result in injustice."

They said the reduction has demoralized a great majority of those in the judiciary who solely depend on their meager salaries and benefits to support their families.

With the delayed releases of financial emoluments and even possibly the reduction of these benefits, "the judiciary's strength and moral authority, as the last bastion of democracy in our land, may have been irreversibly compromised," the PJA said.

The association said the proposed P14.34-billion budget was needed to ensure the optimum and satisfactory operations of the judiciary's workforce.

The full amount was needed to hire more judges to fill up vacant court positions.

Eugenio said there is a vacancy of about 200 positions in the regional trial courts.

The PJA said funds were also needed to hire more judges, buy necessary supplies, repair courtrooms and initiate modernization programs.

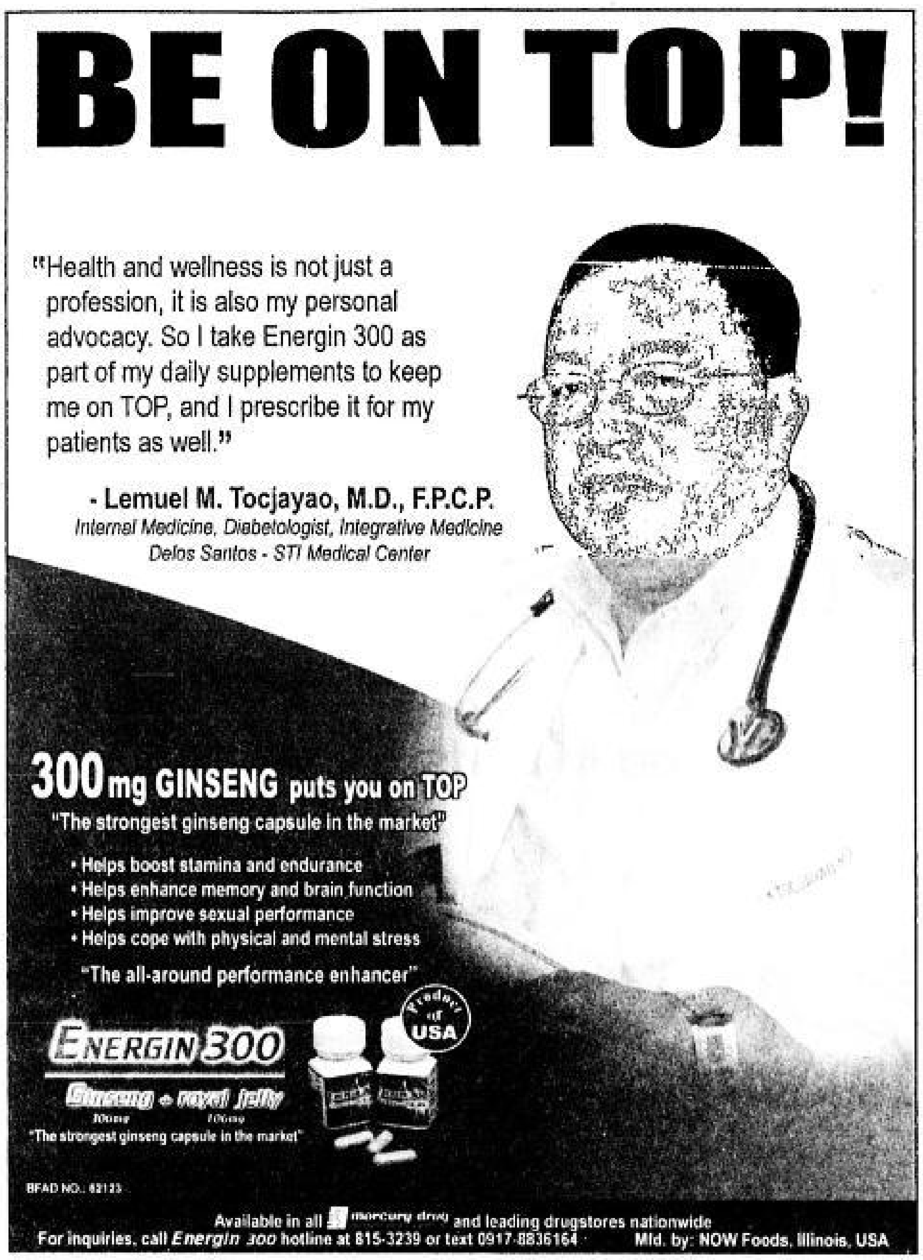
In Manila, for instance, Eugenio said his employees were still using manual typewriters. Courts elsewhere have computers that are already outdated and have never gotten Internet connections, he said.

PJA executive vice president Judge Marissa Macaraig-Guillen and public relations officer Judge Jenny Lind Delorino said it has been a "normal" experience for them to be substituting in one or more courts because of unfilled vacancies.

Eugenio said Supreme Court Justice Reynato Puno has described the proposed allocation for the judiciary as a "Third World budget" that inadequately responds to the calls from some sectors of our society for a "first-class judiciary."

"It is incumbent upon Congress to extend the financial support badly needed to sustain a justice system that is trusted and held in high esteem by our people. Our democratic institutions deserve nothing less for them to survive and flourish in a strong republic," the PJA said.

The group said it cannot permit the judiciary "to operate under a system of mendicancy wherein must go down on bended knees to seek benefits guaranteed to it under the Constitution."



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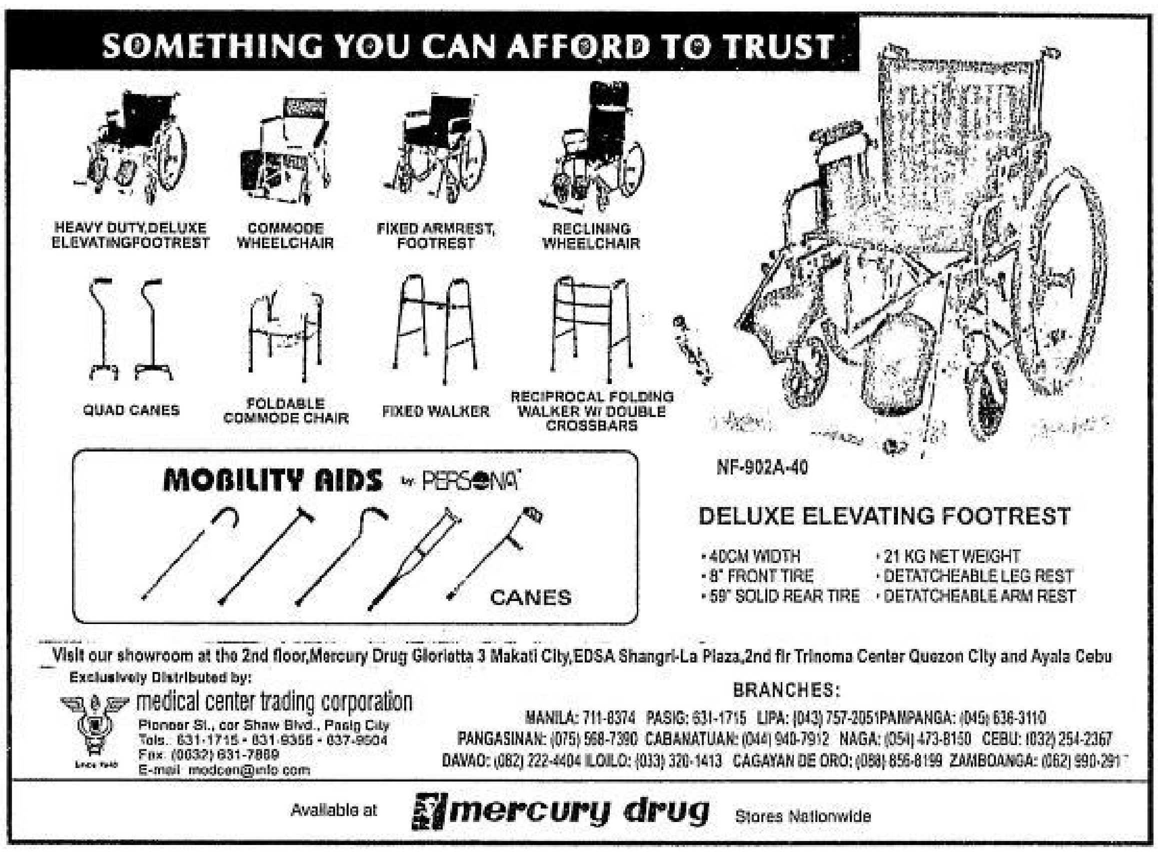

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POLYTRON

This one's no case for amparo; 'victims' ask to stay with military captors

By Beverly Natividad

THE CASE WAS not covered by the writ of amparo after all.

In fact, Edwin Malapute, one of the subjects of a writ of amparo, was allowed to go home with his father yesterday following a hearing, while Malapute's daughter and son-in-law with their two-month old baby decided to return to the confines of the Army camp where they had been held.

The Court of Appeals terminated the hearing on the writ of amparo filed by Edwin's father, Roperto Malapute, who had sought to compel the military to produce his son and granddaughter who he alleged were abducted in Quezon province last month.

In an interview, lawyer Vida G. San Vicente of the Office of the Solicitor General, standing as counsel for the military respondent, said the court saw that the case was not one that needed a writ of amparo.

She said the CA justices asked Edwin, his daughter Edwilinalyn and the latter's husband, Primo Reduta, to state their present status. The proceedings were held off the record.

Free to move

The three said that while they had been apprehended by the military, they were free to move about within the camp of the Philippine Army's 76th Infantry Battalion in Quezon.

San Vicente said her client, Lt. Col. Ramon Tello, the military respondent in the hearing for a writ of amparo, told the court the Malaputes were under his protective custody as rebel returnees "waiting for a chance to reintegrate."

His statement was not disputed by Edwin, Edwilinalyn and Reduta.

While Edwin asked the court to be returned to his father Roperto, Edwilinalyn and Primo asked to remain at the military camp.

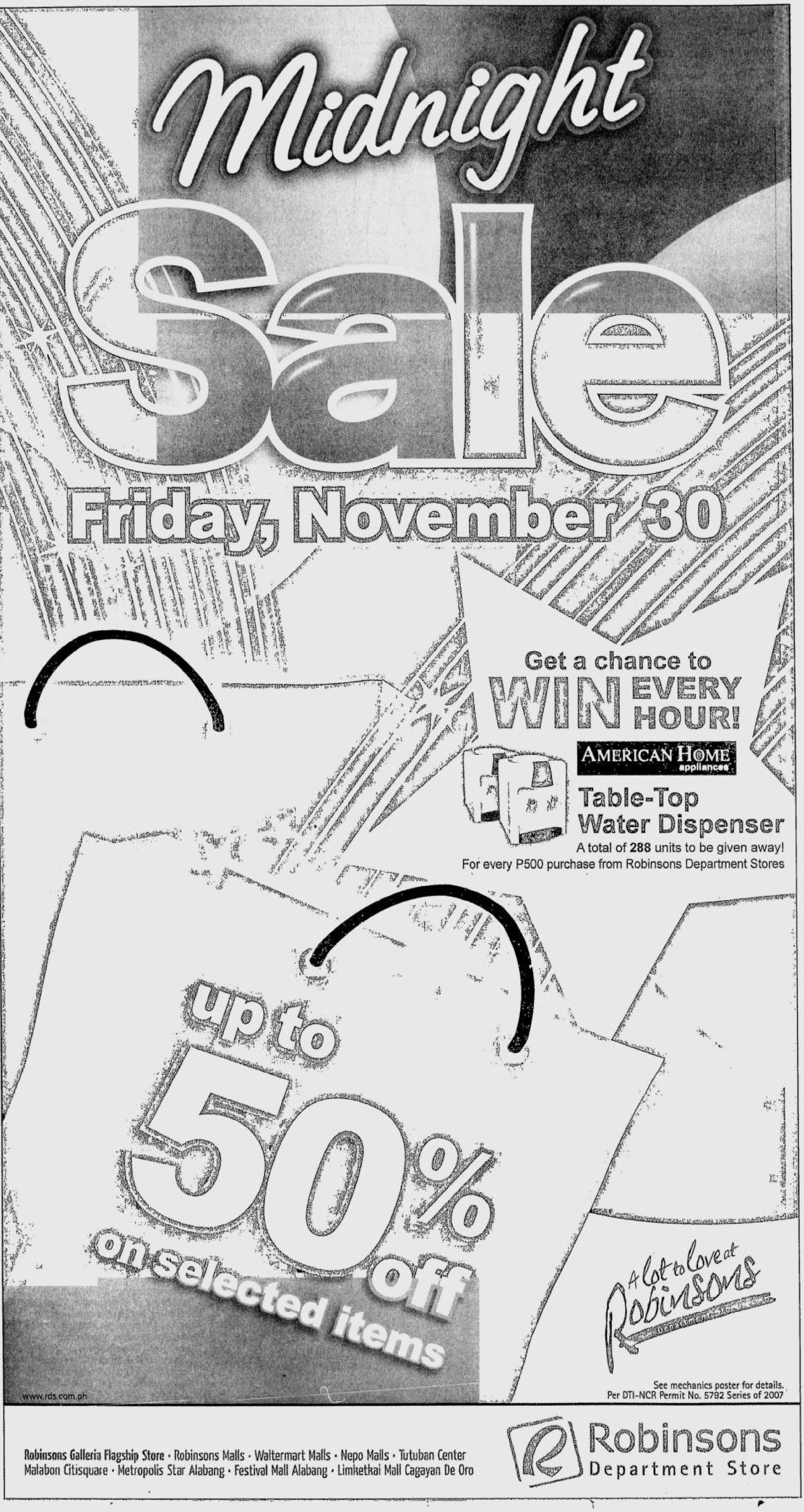
"As proven in court today, this was not a case for the writ of amparo because the people concerned were not abducted," San Vicente said.

The writ of amparo was promulgated by the Supreme Court to address the inefficacy of the writ of habeas corpus in addressing the spate of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

Under the writ of amparo, agents of the state are compelled to search for missing persons and not simply deny they have them in their custody.

Under the writ, petitioners can ask the court for protection from respondents including state agents like the police and the military.

Roperto had alleged the military had abducted his relatives.



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Cory, FVR mum, Erap subdued, says he'll wait and see

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Jocelyn R. Uy

FORMER PRESIDENTS CORAzon Aquino and Joseph Estrada purposely stayed away from the Manila Peninsula hotel in Makati City, which was briefly occupied by rebel soldiers yesterday.

A third former president, Fidel Ramos, refused to comment, but his spokesperson said he had been monitoring the situation.

Aquino, who had called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign at the height of the "Hello Garci" election cheating allegations in 2005, was in her office in Makati City when news of the hotel takeover broke out, according to her son, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

He said he asked his mother to go home, and she promised to leave the office as soon as she finished with some paperwork.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, who is being tried for a 2003 mutiny, and Army Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, an alleged leader of last year's coup attempt that failed, led the rebel soldiers in the hotel occupation, calling on Ms Arroyo to resign.

Senator Aquino said no one from the Trillanes camp tried to contact his mother for support.

'Wait and see'

Estrada, a convicted plunderer who was pardoned by Ms Arroyo, said he would just "wait and see" how things would develop.

"I cannot comment on that yet. I don't even know what is on their (Trillanes' and Lim's) minds," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Estrada said he had just finished hosting a medical mission in a poor community in Quezon City at noon when he heard the news. With him were his wife, Dr. Loi Ejercito, and about 20 doctors.

Subdued

For the past few weeks, Estrada had been touring cities in Metro Manila and in nearby provinces to "get in touch with the poor Filipinos" who had not failed to support him even when he was detained for six years for plunder.

Usually a harsh critic of the Arroyo administration, Estrada has been subdued in responding to issues that involve the legitimacy of Ms Arroyo's presidency. But he maintained that for as long as the administration was in power, he would remain in the opposition.

When asked if he supported the new call to oust the President, he said: "Let's just wait and see … It's too premature to comment. I was even surprised when somebody told me about the [standoff] and I only heard about it on the radio."

Speaker Jose de Venecia acknowledged the need for "reforms at the top" in the wake of the latest "adventurism" of Trillanes and Lim.

"Without a doubt, we need reforms at the top," he said in a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER shortly before 7 p.m.

De Venecia was attending a summit of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at the Manila Hotel during the standoff. He said he was "grateful" that it was resolved without bloodshed.

"It is in the interest of the nation that the rule of law should always prevail in our people's collective cry for reforms," he said. "Dialogue and peacemaking prevailed over the dire prospect of violence and a firefight."

In admitting the need for reforms within the bureaucracy, he again made a pitch for his campaign for a "moral revolution," which came amid his political conflict with Ms Arroyo.

"We must cleanse government and society and restore the nation from what our highly respected Church leaders have described as a state of moral bankruptcy," he said. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra and Cynthia D. Balana*

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Esperon, Yano unaware

By Nikko Dizon

DIPOLOG CITY—NEWS OF THE BRIEF standoff between rebel soldiers and government forces in Makati City caught the military top brass hosting boxing champion Manny Pacquiao and journalists here flat-footed.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. and Army chief Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano met briefly in Zamboanga City at 9 a.m. Yano was en route to this city to visit the 101st Brigade camp with Pacquiao, a reservist Army master sergeant.

At Edward Andrews Air Base, Esperon, who flew in from Davao City, and Yano even posed for pictures with Pacquiao and Army Sgt. Harry Tañamor, the first Filipino boxer to qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Esperon was in high spirits although quite annoyed by the "wrong" report of United Nations Rapporteur Philip Alston blaming the Philippine military for the unsolved killings of leftists since 2001.

Alston, he said, did not intend to hear the side of the military on allegations that it was its policy to kill left-wing activists.

Yano learned of the court walkout by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and other Magdalo soldiers from a hearing of the mutiny charges against them and Army Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, a defense witness, just after 11 a.m. at the city airport after Pacquiao's motorcade.

Rebellion …

From page A1

sualty" of the tense standoff between government forces and renegade soldiers led by opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes, a former Navy lieutenant.

Montaño, son of former Philippine Constabulary chief Ramon Montaño, was to wed Ma. Estela Magpayo at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park.

The 6 p.m. nuptials had former President Fidel Ramos, businessman Eduardo Cojuanco Jr. and singer Jose Mari Chan among the principal sponsors.

No panic

The young Montaño was among the hundreds of hotel guests caught in a bizarre political upheaval that saw the rebel officers "checking in" into one of the Pen's function rooms without actually causing panic on the premises.

For in the first few hours after Trillanes and company entered the hotel and from there issued calls for the overthrow of the Arroyo administration, it was still largely business as usual at the 480-room Pen.

It was a coup attempt staged amid fine dining.

Trillanes and company, trailed by a horde of journalists, entered the hotel just before noon and caught some guests lunching at the lobby.

By the time the soldiers' civilian supporters, led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and former University of Philippines president Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo had set themselves up for a press conference at the hotel's mezzanine, the background sounds included the clink and clatter of dishes and silverware from a nearby corporate function.

Orderly

Only at around 2 p.m. did Director Geary Barias, the chief government negotiator on site, announce orders for the guests to start leaving the hotel. He also gave the renegade soldiers a 3 p.m. ultimatum.

At least between noon and the expiration of the deadline, the premature checkouts went rather orderly, with no one raising their voices at the reception desks. Shuttle services were provided at the lobby.

In curlers

One middle-aged woman still with hair curlers on and lugging a bunch of formal dresses was among those cutting their stay short and seen leaving for another hotel.

The Peninsula issued a statement *(See Page A19)* last night but earlier declined to give interviews as to the number of guests affected.

Among those who lingered for a few minutes longer—and visibly enjoyed watching history unfold—was American citizen Syndey Shain, a friend of the Montaños and a retired police officer from Louisville, Kentucky.

"I was in my room when I saw the breaking news on TV. Well, I guess going down here is better than staying in my room," she said when the INQUIRER met her in the lobby, about two hours before the deadline for the rebels expired.

It can be scary when "when you see people with submachine guns in your hotel," she remarked, referring to the armed rebel soldiers posted at the Pen's main marble staircase. "But I won't be here if I were that afraid."

No romantic evening

Minutes later, a visibly worried ex-General Montaño, the father of the groom Guderian, arrived and inquired at the front desk as to his son's reception booking.

"They are handling it very well," the elder Montaño told reporters, referring to the police response to the crisis. "And I'll also commend them if we can push through with our wedding reception."

But by then, it was already clear that the Montaños' plans for a romantic evening had to give way to a national emergency

Exodus of RP geologists hampers mapping project

By TJ Burgonio

LIKE MANY PROFESSIONAL FILIPINOS, GEologists working for the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have been joining the exodus for greener pastures.

This has put a crimp on the government mapping of the country to identify areas prone to landslides and flash floods, an MGB official said yesterday.

Antonio Apostol, MGB geohazard mapping project leader, admitted the geologists' departure would adversely affect the government's geohazard mapping project scheduled to end in 2010.

Apostol said 70 of the MGB's 120 geologists had resigned over the past several months to take higher paying jobs in mining companies here and abroad.

"There are only 40 to 50 geologists left in the MGB to continue the geohazard mapping project of the DENR," he said.

An MGB geologist's monthly salary ranges from P8,000 to P10,000.

Mapping target

With a smaller crew to do the work, Apostol estimated the MGB would be able to map out only 150 municipalities, instead of the ideal 250 municipalities, a year from 2008 to 2010.

With the full complement of 120 geologists, the MGB was able to surpass government geohazard mapping targets, he said.

The geohazard mapping project aims to cover a total of 1,660 municipalities and cities nationwide in the next three years. So far, 918 municipalities have been mapped out.

This year alone, as of October, the MGB had completed mapping out 198 municipalities in Leyte, Biliran, Quezon, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Aurora and Camarines Norte, as well as parts of Isabela, Cagayan, Mindoro, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur and Compostela Valley.

Apostol said the DENR geohazard mapping team was speeding up the identification of relocation sites in communities vulnerable to landslides and floods, and the production of geohazard maps, posters, videos, pamphlets and other materials for local government units.

Most of the provinces prone to landslides and floods are located in Luzon and the Cordilleras, MGB officials had earlier said.

Benguet, Mt. Province, Nueva Vizcaya, Kalinga Apayao, Southern Leyte, Abra, Marinduque, Cebu, Catanduanes and Ifugao were the most highly susceptible to landslides, the MGB said in July.

On the other hand, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Maguindanao, Bulacan, North Cotabato, Oriental Mindoro, Ilocos Norte and Metro Manila were the most flood-prone provinces, they said.

Environment Secretary Lito Atienza had earlier said he would seek a higher budget for the DENR for 2008 and use the increase to hire more geologists.

Upsilon batch '57 marks 50th year

MEMBERS OF BATCH 1957. OF THE UPsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity, Asia's oldest fraternity, started yesterday three days of celebration of their golden jubilee dubbed "Tagay-tagay sa Tagaytay."

Antonio H. Abad, chair of the '57 jubilee steering committee, promised a "weekend of fun and nostalgia" for all Upsilonians and Sigma Deltans attending the three-day event, which ends tomorrow.

A host of activities is slated at the Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines UP, Calatagan Golf Club in Batangas, and Royal Tagaytay Resort, Abad said.

Calling themselves "Gold Bond 0057," the jubilarians will have Batch 57 of the Sigma Delta Phi as co-celebrants.

According to former HUDCC chair and jubilarian Dion dela Serna, Upsilon-Delta Batches '67 and '82 are also holding their respective celebrations with Batch '57.

A celebration of the Holy Mass, treeplanting at the UP lagoon, brunch at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, and a presentation of excerpts from well-loved Upsilonian musical cavalcades Aloyan, Hanako and Linda kicked off the festivities yesterday.

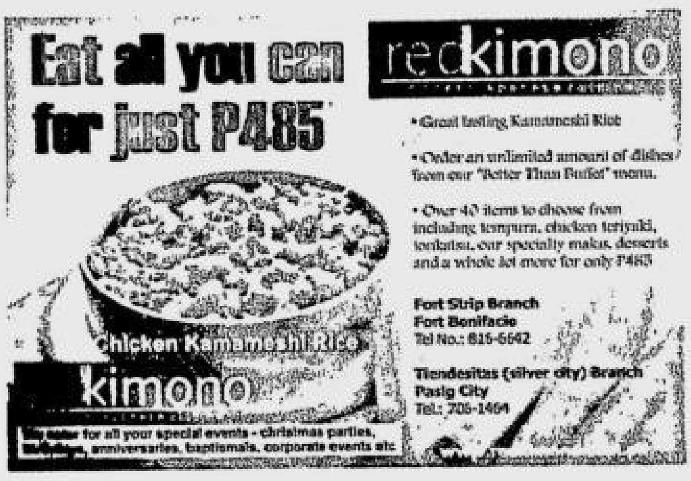
Upsilonians Dick Zamora and Mart Martell wrote the songs, lyrics and scores of the musicals in the 1950s.

Today, the celebrators will hold in Calatagan the Romeo Liamzon Memorial Golf Tournament in honor of the the late Upsilon head in 1957 and Batch '57's Illustrious Fellow.

But the highlight of the jubilee will be the presentation of the Gold Fez and Golden Cane to the jubilarians today to be presided over by Abad and Jun Aniag at the Royal Tagaytay Resort.

Abad and Aniag are chair and president, respectively, of the Upsilon Alumni Association. They, together with businessman Vic G. Puyat, will bestow on Martell and Zamora the Fer Bautista Memorial Award.

Dela Serna will deliver the closing remarks after a minute of silent prayers for all the departed Upsilonians and Sigma Deltans belonging to Batch '57, and the singing of the Upsilon Sigma Phi Centennial Song.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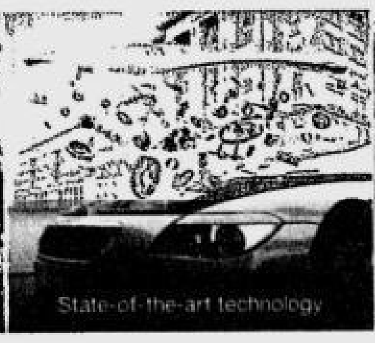

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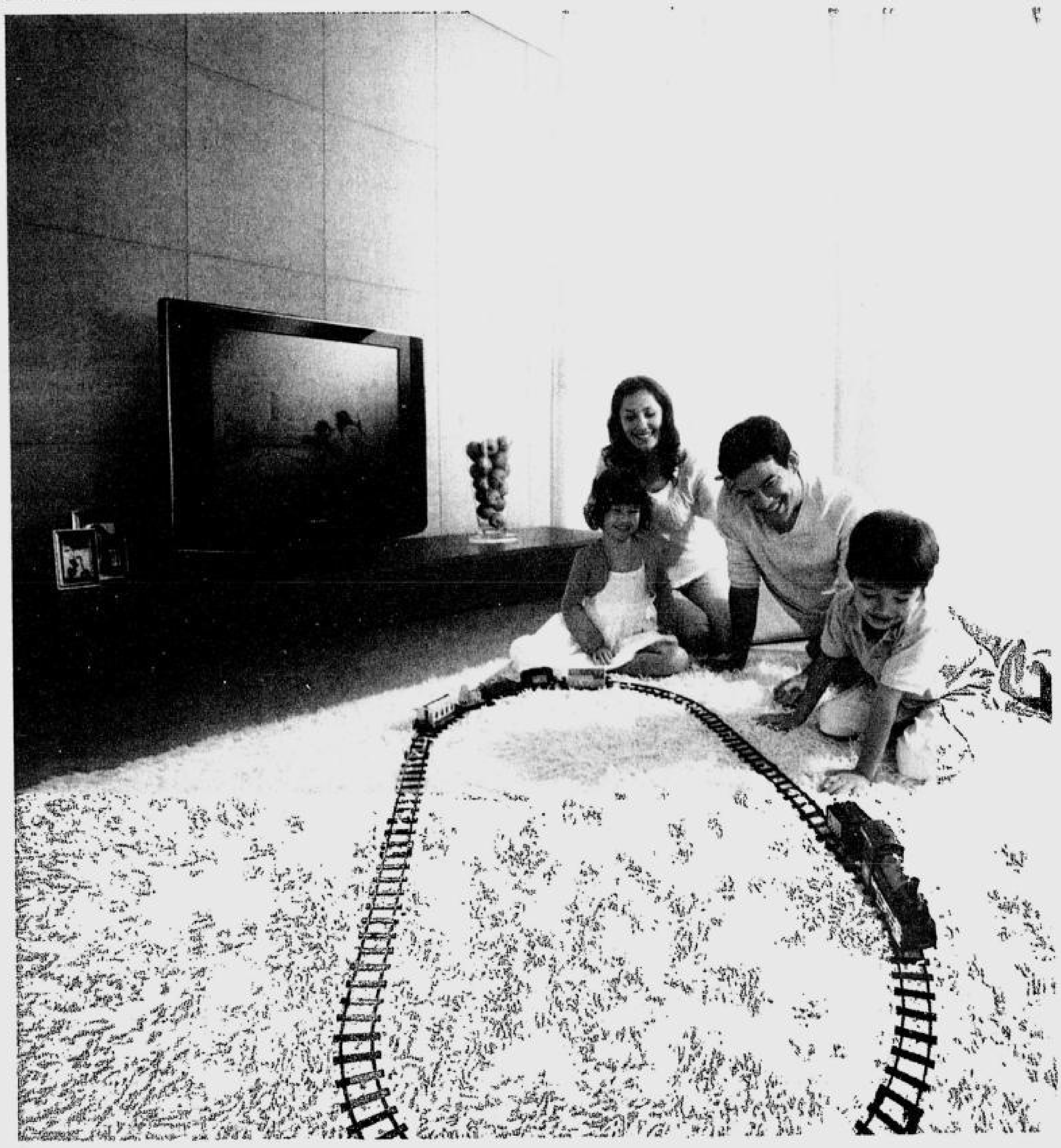

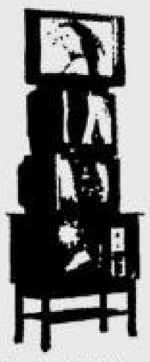
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It all began with Lim on the witness stand

From page A1

"Walang gagalaw (Nobody move)!" Layug told stunned reporters and onlookers at Branch 148 of the Makati City Regional Trial Court.

It was around 10:40 a.m.

Seconds later, Judge Oscar Pimentel barked an order: "Sheriff, please secure General Lim and make sure he is not taken away."

But it was too late. Lim was already in the hallway.

'A new life'

The detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV—who, as a Navy lieutenant, was one of the mutiny leaders—then sprang from his seat and moved to catch up with Lim, the Magdalo soldiers scrambling in his wake.

Of the 31 accused Magdalo officers, only five did not join the walkout: Capt. Milo Maestrecampo, Capt. Laurence Luis Somera, 1st Lt. Florentino Somera, 1st Lt. Cleo Dungga-as and 1st Lt. Von Rio Tayab.

There was no hint from the Magdalo soldiers present that they would be staging a walkout. They bantered among themselves as they waited for the hearing to begin.

Trillanes was, however, seen talking quietly with Lim minutes before the hearing.

Amid the ensuing scuffle in the hallway and before stepping into the elevator, Trillanes faced the media to announce: "Now is the time to start a new life. Pursuant to our constitutional mandate as protector of the people, we are making the step of removing Gloria Arroyo from the presidency.

"The time for change is now... We are withdrawing support from the government and asking President Arroyo to step down. We are calling on our fellow people to join us here in Makati."

There was a mad scramble to get Lim and Trillanes into the waiting elevator.

Pushed out of the elevator, reporters raced from the Makati City Hall's 14th floor to the first floor.

At the lobby, security guards and yellow-shirted auxiliary personnel were unable to stop Trillanes and company as they threw open the glass doors and started their march in the rain.

Red armbands

On J.P. Rizal Street, Trillanes and Lim marched alongside their fellow Oakwood mutineers, exhorting bystanders to join them: *"Sama na kayo!"*

The soldiers wore red armbands, with the insignia of a sun, on their left arm.

The motley group, including former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and former University of the Philippines president Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo, marched to the Manila Peninsula at the corner of Ayala and Makati Avenues.

Motorists honked loudly along the course of the march, with the soldiers obviously buoyed by the show of support.

LIM: His testimony cut short.

At the hotel, security personnel were unable to stop the marchers and the reporters trailing them. A glass door at the side entrance was shattered and several chairs were broken in the rush to get in.

After making a brief statement, the group holed up in the Hernandez and Rizal function rooms on the second floor.

It was a few minutes before noon.

The standoff would end six hours later, amid broken glass and chairs and an armored personnel carrier sitting eerily beside a giant Christmas tree at the hotel lobby.

'Utter laxity'

State Prosecutor Juan Pedro Navera complained that the security personnel sent by the military appeared to have let Lim, Trillanes and Layug walk out without resistance.

Navera also said Judge Pimentel had directed the prosecution panel to look into the incident.

"We take exception to the utter laxity of the security sent by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. This would not have happened without the laxity and familiarity with the accused, and we will be investigating this angle in detail," Navera told reporters at the Department of Justice.

He also said there appeared to be "some influence on the military and police security detail."

Navera said the security men just surrounded the accused and "did nothing."

He said the sheriff was obviously relying on the security detail to arrest Trillanes and Layug, but there was no such effort from the guards.

Contempt of court

Upon the motion of the prosecution panel, Pimentel also issued bench warrants for the accused who had walked out along with Trillanes, Layug and Lim.

Navera said Trillanes and Layug had been found to be in direct contempt of the court and ordered imprisoned for 10 days at the Makati City Jail.

"The assistant chief state prosecutor (Richard Fadullon) and I tried to protest the travesty going on at the witness stand. Most of the people took the threat of Layug seriously and did nothing," Navera said.

He said the instinct of the prosecutors, including Amanda Felipe and Mary Jane Sytat, was to secure Pimentel and themselves, and to help the staff get into the judge's chambers.

They also secured their records, he said.

Navera said that during a break in the hearing, he observed that Trillanes and Layug were talking with Lim.

He said the prosecutors told Trillanes that this was not allowed, and the conversation stopped.

He also said Trillanes' lawyer Reynaldo Robles was "emphatic" in telling prosecutors that he had no idea that the walkout would take place.

'Gentleman enough'

According to Navera, the move of the accused showed their "desperation."

"They have no respect for the civilian court, no respect for the prosecution, and even their coaccused. We should also note that not all of the accused escaped with them. Some of them were gentlemen enough to say that they would not join the escape," he said.

Navera also said that despite the lack of violence, the incident had shocked the prosecutors.

"[In] a court of law where solemnity is the order of the day, this incident is surprising, shocking," he said. *With a report from DJ Yap*

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Philippine Electricity Market Corporation

ANNOUNCEMENT

Nomination of Candidates for Independent Directors
Close: 7 December 2007 at 5:00 pm

TO ALL SECTORAL MEMBERS:

The Office of the Corporate Secretary of the PHILIPPINE ELECTRICITY MARKET CORPORATION (PEMC) is soliciting nominations for candidates for Independent Directors.

Any Sectoral Member may nominate one or more persons as Independent Directors of the Board. The candidates for Independent Directors shall first undergo a pre-qualification process in order to ensure that he/she —

1. Is independent of the Philippine Government;
2. Is NOT a director, officer, employee, contractor, agent, manager or shareholder* of a WESM Member;
3. Is NOT a relative of a person, within the fourth civil degree of affinity or consanguinity, of a director, officer, manager, and shareholder* of a WESM Member;
4. Is NOT an officer, manager, director or shareholder*, agent, employee or contractor, or is NOT a person, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, who controls or is controlled by a company, affiliate or any other entity related to or associated with a WESM Member, where:
   a. A related company or body is a parent, holding company, subsidiary or affiliate of the WESM Member;
   b. An associate is a person who is a director, officer, manager or shareholder of that related company or entity or a relative of such a person within the fourth civil degree of affinity or consanguinity;
5. Has NOT been employed as an officer, or in any supervisory or managerial capacity, by any electric power industry participant, or a company or body related to or associated with a WESM Member within one (1) year prior to the nomination date; and,
6. Agrees NOT to be employed by and does NOT accept employment with any electric power industry participant, or a company or body related to or associated with a WESM Member within one (1) year after the person ceases to be a Director.

Since there will be a pre-qualification process for nominees for Independent Directors, the attached nomination form, together with the candidate's resumé, should be submitted on or before **7 December 2007, 5:00 pm** to:

ATTY. CELINA R. ENCARNACION
Office of the Corporate Secretary
PHILIPPINE ELECTRICITY MARKET CORPORATION
18th Floor, Robinsons-Equitable Tower,
ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Telefax. No.: 6318734 Local 264
E-mail: crencarnacion@wesm.ph

The list of nominees, including copies of the nomination forms and each nominee's resumé, shall be communicated to all Members, published in a newspaper of general circulation, and posted at the Company's website (www.wesm.ph) on **31 December 2007**.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CELINA R. ENCARNACION**
Corporate Secretary

*The term "shareholder" excludes (a) a Member of an Electric Cooperative who is not involved in the operation and management of the same Electric Cooperative, and (b) an End-user who is required to subscribe to, or to purchase a share in a Distribution Utility as an incident to the provision of service by the same Distribution Utility; provided that the interest of the End-user be not more than the minimum required to avail of the Distribution Utility's services *(Sec. 1.4.2.7, WESM Rules)*

(PDI - Nov. 30, 2007)

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Anyone having information regarding these illegal activities are enjoined to immediately contact the undersigned attorneys of SYSMEX CORPORATION.

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Counsel for SYSMEX CORPORATION
Citibank Center, 10th Floor
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
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Stocks, peso on roller coaster ride

From page A1

Chinatrust Commerical Bank Philippines.

"This is nothing to fear but it has made the Philippine a laughingstock once more," said Marcelo Ayes, senior vice president of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

As other Asian currencies steadily rose against the US dollar in Thursday's trading, the peso initially jumped to a 7-year peak of 42.60 against the greenback on Wednesday's news that local firm Aboitiz Power and Norway's SN Power had won an auction for two Philippine hydropower plants with a $325-million bid.

The peso then fell to 42.98 on news that a small group of military men led by detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes were holed up at the luxury hotel.

Currency traders eventually shrugged off the possibility of the group garnering big support, allowing the peso to end at 42.75 at the Philippine Dealing System.

"The situation is unlike [the one-day Oakwood mutiny in] 2003 and there is probably not the same undertone of political or military instability," said Emmanuel Ng, a strategist at Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp.

Stocks up

As most Asian stocks closed sharply up Thursday after an overnight Wall Street rally, news of the Makati mutiny sent Philippine stocks fluctuating wildly.

In the first hours of trading, the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) surged 106 points, or 3 percent, to a high of 3,643.43 following an official government report that the Philippine economy expanded by 6.6 percent in the three months to September from a year earlier.

News of the mutiny, however, caused the PSEi—a barometer of business confidence—to fall by as much as 2 percent but the index still managed to close 41.55 points up at 3,578.55.

Value turnover reached 6.6 billion shares worth a total of P7.54 billion. But the market breadth was negative—there were 84 losers against 39 gainers.

"Traders sold immediately after hearing the news [of the mutiny] and we lost a hundred points. But toward the close, they started to buy back again," Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas said.

"Investors were clearly spooked. That stunt took the steam out of the market. It completely destroyed the momentum of the market," Francisco Liboro of PCCI Securities said.

Vivian Yuchengco, a top PSE official, expressed frustration over the action taken by a handful of military rebels, saying she would have wanted them shot by snipers.

"The market was a victim again of the messianic act of certain political figures ... Trillanes' actions created a climate of instability and uncertainty which markets abhor," said Astro del Castillo, managing director at First Grade Holdings Inc.

Foreign investors, however, seemed unshaken. They were net buyers of P940 million worth of shares yesterday—total foreign buying hit P4.675 billion versus total foreign selling at P3.735 billion.

Unsympathetic

The military rebels hardly elicited sympathy from the business community.

"(These people) never seem to learn ... Their actions are only causing political instability," said Alberto A. Lim, executive director of the influential Makati Business Club.

Lim said disgruntled soldiers should never resort to military adventurism even if this was against corruption or whatever issue against the government.

"This military way can never be the means to address legitimate issues," Lim added.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry chair Donald G. Dee said business leaders would never support any extraconstitutional action.

"Trillanes took an oath to defend the Constitution but he is clearly out to destabilize the government ... He has violated his office as a senator," Dee said.

Who suffers most?

"And who would suffer from this effect? The very same people that (Trillanes and his comrades) claim to be fighting for."

Henry Schumacher, executive vice president of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, said the mutiny would work against the Philippines in terms of international reputation.

Businesswoman Anna Marie Periquet said that while she hoped for the country's bright future, "events like this are so sad, confusing, frustrating and tiring."

Two weeks ago, Periquet addressed the International Women's Dialogue and Conference on Retail Marketing in Taipei, representing the Young Entrepreneurs Group-Asia Pacific which she chairs.

"I used the (conference) as a venue to sell the country as a business destination and to urge people to invest here," she said.

But the Makati mutiny would scare away foreign investors, she said. "It is bad enough that we have to face natural calamities, and we could do away with (such) human adventurism."

With reports from AP and AFP

Manila Pen closes to assess damage

(Below is the statement of the Peninsula Manila.)

THE PENINSULA MANILA will be closed and will remain as such while the hotel's management addresses the extent of the damage from the incident. Operations will resume as soon as possible.

The Peninsula Manila will pick up all charges from the hotels where its guests were transferred to up to and including 12 noon on Friday, 30 November.

The management of The Peninsula Manila wishes to reassure its guests and patrons that it did everything possible to ensure their safety.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, November 30, 2007
Andrew, Apostle

1st Reading:	Rom 10:9-18
Gospel:	Matthew 4:18-22

As Jesus walked by the lake of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

He went on from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. At once they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Commentary

Andrew preached Jesus the Lord—crucified and risen from the dead, and belonging to all nations and peoples. He went forth and brought this good news of Jesus to the poor and to all those who would listen. He was a missionary, a preacher, a fisherman, a brother, and a believer himself. He began early, leaving everything, his boats and livelihood, to follow Jesus when he was called together with his brother Simon. He was called within his family, his work, and his nation, to leave it all for larger horizons and countries and inner worlds he could never imagine—into the company of Jesus, the Word, the Christ. We are each called in this way, to follow, to preach, and to be the good news we proclaim—to our families, in our jobs, in our countries. And yet we are to be aware of the world that waits for our word, our risking, and our reaching out beyond our small personal lives. If we call on the name of the Lord, we must also confess with our lives that Jesus is Lord.

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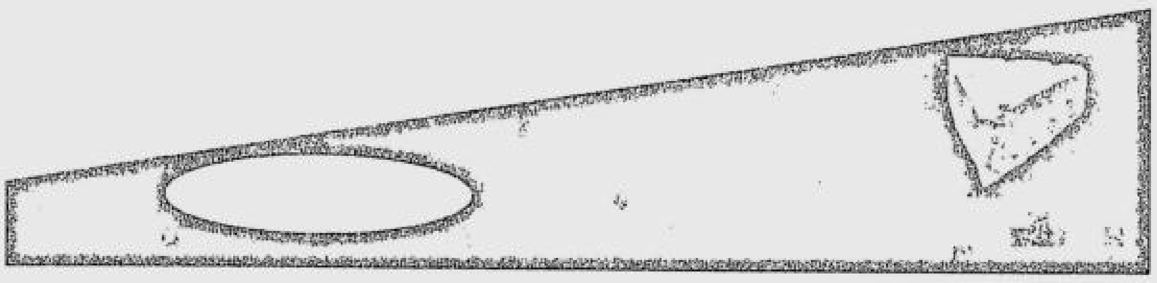

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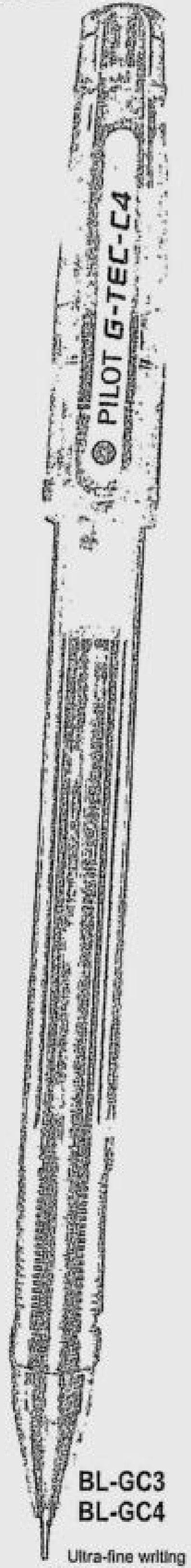

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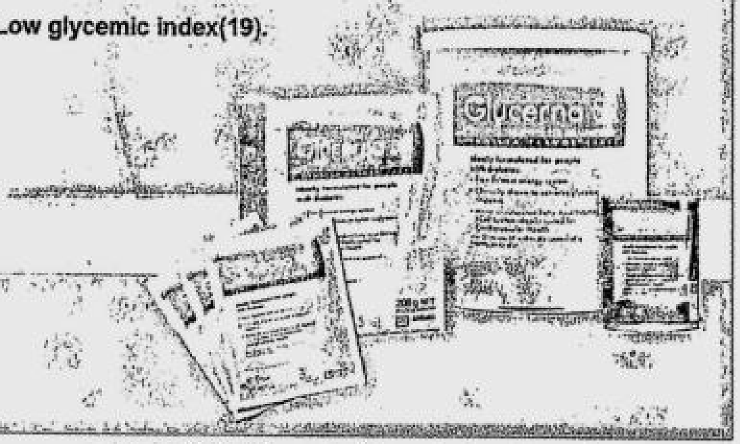

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3	tbsp.	Cooking Oil
1 1/3	cup	Meat sliced thinly or shrimps shelled and deveined
3	cups	Assorted Vegetables, sliced (carrots, celery, cauliflower, cabbage, snowpeas, mushrooms, etc.)
1	tsp	**Mama Sita's Oyster Sauce**
1	tsp	Sesame Oil (optional)

COOKING DIRECTIONS:

1. Plunge 8 1/2 oz (230g) canton noodles into 6 cups (1 1/2 L) boiling water.
2. Separate noodles with fork while cooking for 1 minute.
3. Drain in a colander. Let dry by arranging noodles with a fork on a tray.
4. Set aside.
5. Prepare chopsuey and stir in cooked noodles just before removing from fire.

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Suicide

EDITORIAL

IN THE SAME WAY THAT A SINNER FINDS THERE IS a pattern to his sins, ex-coup plotters or former mutinous soldiers end up repeating old battle plans, even those that failed to work the first time. Yesterday, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, the leader of the Magdalo mutineers who took over Oakwood in 2003, was once again at the forefront of a mutiny of sorts. He led a small group of soldiers and civilians—initially estimated at around 30 or so—in a forced takeover of a luxury hotel in the middle of the Makati Central Business District. His objective was to force President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign.

He was joined by Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, a respected soldier who has taken part in previous coup attempts and was implicated in the Fort Bonifacio "standoff" that led to the declaration of a state of emergency in February 2006. In that standoff, mutinous military leaders called on the Catholic bishops to come to their aid. Only two of the country's hundred or so bishops responded favorably to this latest act of adventurism, with one of them saying he just happened to be at the hotel when Trillanes and company arrived in force.

In other words, this armed undertaking had failure written all over it. It had the DNA of the ineptly executed Oakwood mutiny and the inadequately prepared-for standoff. The idea that a commander-in-chief can be forced out of office by taking over a secluded hotel in Makati was ridiculous in 2003; it is only pathetic now. The idea that a mass of supporters, the possible nucleus of a People Power uprising, will throng to an inaccessible camp was preposterous in 2003; it remains risible today.

Let us be clear. The Arroyo administration, and especially the heavy-handed leadership of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, is responsible for deepening the frustration of the officers and soldiers facing various charges related to the mutiny and the standoff. They have not received the kind of respectful treatment they may have expected from their brother-soldiers; they have reason to feel sorely aggrieved, even deliberately humiliated.

At the same time, there is no excuse for what Trillanes and company have done.

The intellectual dishonesty of lawyer JV Bautista, calling the armed entry into the Manila Peninsula hotel a "political act" and not an action contemptuous of the very court Trillanes and Lim had walked out of, is self-evident. The arrest warrants newly issued against Trillanes and Lim were signed by the same judge they had disrespected.

But worse than Bautista's attempt at spin was Trillanes' own political arrogance or rank ignorance (it is hard to tell which), where he all but offered himself, a newly elected senator, as an alternative to an "illegitimate" president. Any hope of the young radical reaching out to the millions of Filipinos who are deeply unhappy over President Arroyo's performance died the moment he said that: it was incredible hubris—and the very opposite of the issue-oriented politics he says he advocates.

Before surrendering, Trillanes explained yesterday's bizarre caper as a logical outcome of his "moral obligation" as a public official and ex-soldier. This is, we are afraid, a deeply misguided reading of his duties. He cynically put people in harm's way, exploited the reporters and cameramen who covered him as his own protective shield, deliberately harmed the country's image—and for what? To prove to the nation that his alternative to the "ruthlessness" of the Arroyo presidency was his own brand of incompetence.

It seems Trillanes' victory in the May 2007 polls made him forget the lasting lessons of the July 2003 mutiny: As the public opinion polls showed soon after, the people sympathized with them and their cause, but vigorously condemned the violent path they had chosen.

"Dissent without action is consent," Lim told the nation. He could be right, but even if we were to take him at his word, we still need to ask: Is "action" necessarily defined in terms of violence? That way lies mass suicide.

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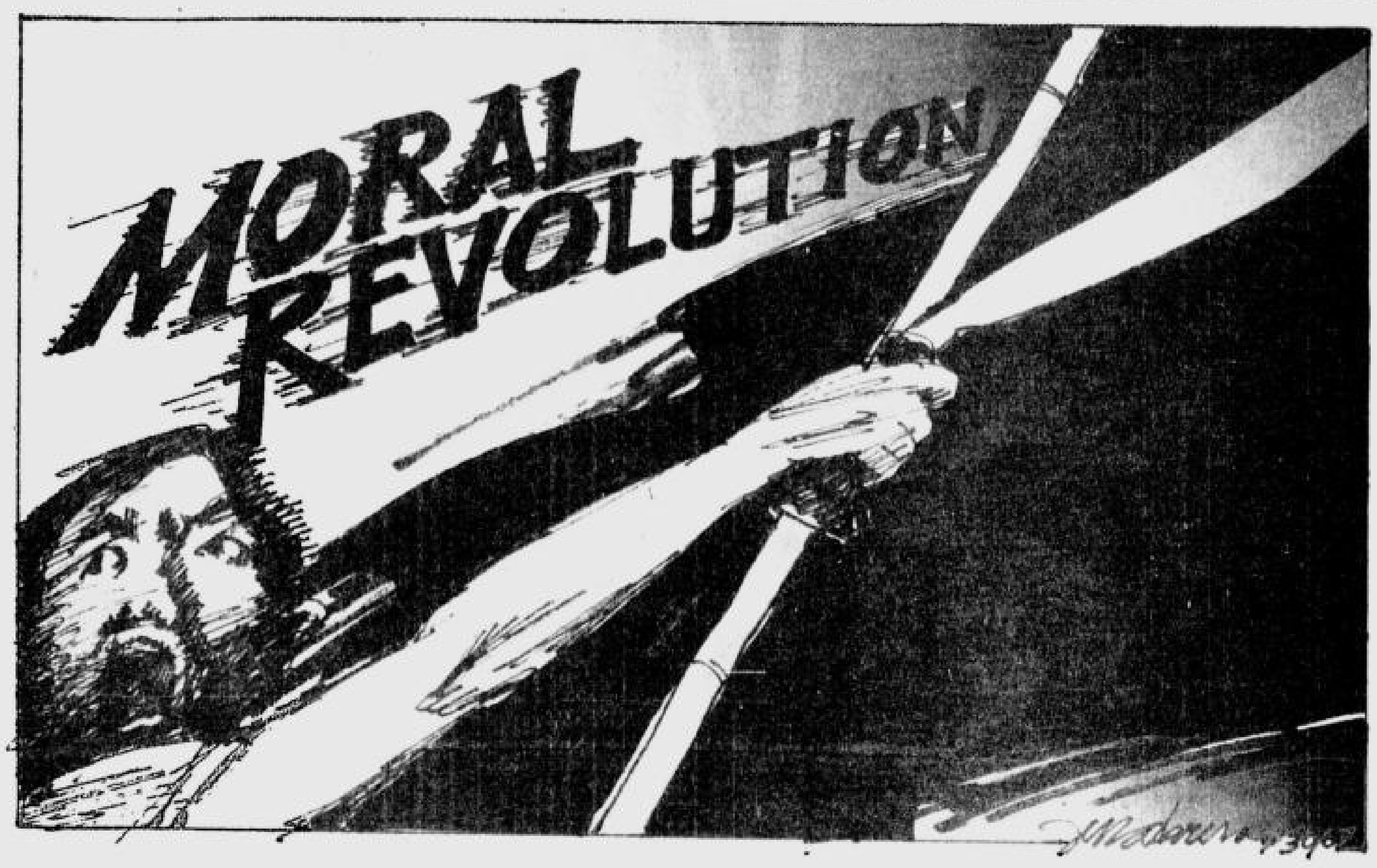

Maysilo land case clarified

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

A FEW COLUMNS AGO, I WROTE ABOUT THE land battles the Manotok family is fighting on two fronts: over the Maysilo Estate against CLT Realty, and over the so-called Manotok Compound against the Barque heirs in Matandang Balara, Quezon City. Both cases have been decided against the Manotoks all the way to the Supreme Court and there are now two pending petitions in the Supreme Court to reopen them and remand them to the trial courts.

CLT Realty sent a statement to clarify the Maysilo land case with a request that it be published so that its side may be read by the public. (The Barque side was published earlier.) In the interest of fair play, here is the CLT statement:

"The decision of the Supreme Court rendered some time in November 2005 in favor of CLT Realty is merely an affirmation of three separate decisions of the Court of Appeals, which in turn affirmed three separate decisions of the trial courts rendered after trial on the merits dating as far back as 20 years ago. In that period, the titles to the land issued to Manotok and Araneta were voided by the decisions of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and trial courts, and to try the cases all over again by asking the Supreme Court to remand the cases to the lower courts for another full-blown trial is unjust. This is because all the parties presented all their evidence before the trial courts already, after which the courts concluded that the titles of Manotok and Araneta are void. A retrial sets a very dangerous precedent of every losing litigant going to the Supreme Court to ask that its case be tried again, even after decades of lengthy litigation wherein it already presented its evidence in full.

"CLT Realty also clarifies that:

"• There are not two OCT 994s, one dated 19 April 1917 and the other dated 3 May 1917. This was clarified following the oral arguments conducted by the Supreme Court on Aug. 1, 2006. There is only one OCT 994 based on the submissions of the Solicitor General and the parties. Both dates, April 19, 1917 and May 3, 1917, appear on OCT 994. The issue merely is which of these dates is the correct date of registration and this issue is not even determinative of the case.

"• The alleged fabrication of Dimson's title is based on a report of the Land Registration Authority (LRA) which has already been struck down by the Supreme Court in Heirs of Luis Gonzaga vs Court of Appeals. In the Gonzaga case, the Supreme Court declared the report inherently inadmissible and incompetent, hence it cannot be given weight or probative value. The Supreme Court also stressed therein that said report 'suffers from congenital infirmity as it could not have possibly overruled the final decision of the various branches of the then Courts of First Instance of Rizal.'

"• The case of former Caloocan Register of Deeds Yolanda Alfonso is irrelevant. The Supreme Court in that case precisely warned that it is purely a decision on such administrative case and it did not pass 'judgment on the validity of the derivative titles of OCT 994.' In fact, the subject of the Alfonso case were the alleged land titles of Phil-Ville Development Corp. in relation to those of the Riveras, at the instance of Phil-Ville. The title of CLT Realty was not involved, nor was its side heard; thus, it would be unconstitutional deprivation of due process to apply the Alfonso case to CLT Realty.

"• What really determines the issues relating to OCT 994 is not the Alfonso case but the independent, scientific and incontrovertible evidence, proven by CLT Realty and unanimously upheld by the trial courts, the Court of Appeals and the Third Division of the Supreme Court, that the alleged TCT 4211 (and alleged TCTs 5261 and 3546 from which Manotok and Sto. Niño derived their alleged titles) is spurious. Hence, their alleged titles could not have been validly derived from OCT 994 because of the confluence of the following fatal and inherent defects and infirmities and badges of fraud that plague said alleged titles:

"a. The fact that the technical descriptions of the lots in OCT 994 are already written entirely in English, whereas those in the alleged subsequent TCT 4211 (as well as the alleged TCT 5261 and 354860) are still in Spanish is abnormal, highly unusual, if not unprecedented, and contrary to the usual practice in the issuance of titles.

"b. There was no approved subdivision survey plan for Lot 26 of the Maysilo Estate pursuant to which the alleged TCT 4211 could have been validly issued, as shown by the fact that said alleged title does not indicate any subdivision survey number and lot number and contains a survey date different from that of the alleged mother title, OCT 994.

"c. The alleged plan Psd-251154, which allegedly subdivided the lot covered by the alleged TCT 35486 (formerly covered by the alleged TCTs 4211 and 5261) could not be traced from the lands management bureau which purportedly approved said alleged plan.

"d. There are material deviations in the tie points used in the technical descriptions on the alleged TCT Nos. 1368 to 1374 compared to those used on the mother lot which defeats the very purpose of the points and the lines and is contrary to the standard practice of adopting the tie points of the mother lot.

"e. The results of laboratory analysis by a forensic chemist of the NBI revealed that OCT 4211 (as well as TCT 4210) were estimated to be 50 years old as of March 1993 when the examination was conducted. Hence, the documents could have been prepared only in 1940 and not in 1918 as appears on the face of TCT 4211."

Her Father's business

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, SJ
John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

ADVENT IS THE SEASON OF JOHN THE BAPtist, the prophet par excellence who died for his uncompromising stand for the truth. What an opportune time then to celebrate the life of this man even as we lament the lack of prophets in our midst. In the current political crisis, in particular, many Catholic faithful have rued the fact that rather than guide them to the truth, our Church leaders have caused a lot of confusion. While John the Baptist condemned Herod for the crime of adultery in no uncertain terms, many of our bishops speak in equivocal language.

A recent case is the controversy over the whopping P120 million cash bonanza given away by Malacañang to government officials in exchange for their support for the embattled President. With the stench of corruption reeking everywhere, the atmosphere was ripe again for another impeachment complaint against the President. This time, the whistleblower was no less than a man of the cloth. To the ordinary man on the street, this was simple bribery. It was corruption pure and simple. Consequently, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo condemned it, saying the recent payola shows the "moral bankruptcy" of the government. As if on cue, three bishops in Manila known for their radical political postures seized the opportunity and called on the President to resign. However, jumping to the President's rescue were 18 bishops from Mindanao and 10 more from Northern Luzon with a statement saying that the call was premature and that a "thorough and impartial investigation" must first be made—a declaration which the intelligent among the faithful found naïve, for since when did any investigation in this country lead to any truth?

Bishop Francisco Claver describes the commotion among the bishops as unprecedented and exhibiting "episcopal discord." And while the bishops try to get their act together, their very own man, the courageous whistleblowing priest, is now all alone to face the President's vendetta. The political machinery in Pampanga has reportedly been unleashed to punish him for the crime of speaking the truth.

Bishop Claver makes it clear that the Church hierarchy is not in the business of being kingmakers or king-keepers. Its business is to set the moral guidelines within the political arena. Indeed, all the faithful ask from their prelates is to speak the truth. More than media or the academic community, the Church has been charged with the task of prophecy. Only she can lay claim to a long tradition of speaking on behalf of God. The problem, however, is that the truth is never neutral. It takes the side of justice. It will always be "inconvenient," as Al Gore's documentary proclaims. Or as Christ says, I do not bring peace but division.

But what is the truth in our times that needs to be proclaimed? For one, corruption is the root cause of the country's ills. According to the World Bank, the country is losing $2 billion a year; P100 million a day, according to the Office of the Ombudsman. Money that should go to basic social services and to poverty alleviation is wasted on corruption. The Church therefore who declares preferential love for the poor must be at the forefront of the fight against corruption because it is what is keeping her beloved poor in their misery.

Not only that. Corruption infects other institutions. It has become a way of life, corroding the very moral fiber of society. Not even the Church is exempt from being contaminated. How unfortunate that for receiving cash donations from this or that government, some prelates have been perceived as favoring this or that government.

Church leaders who are perceived as political or partisan are one thing. But those who keep mum or shun anything "political" are another thing. And they are in the majority. They would rather stay in the more productive work of charity. "It is divisive to talk about corruption," one priest was heard saying. Not only is he not addressing the root cause of poverty, he is unwittingly buying into the government's slogan to "move on" and keep your eyes and mouth shut. But more seriously, he has abandoned one key dimension of his priesthood, which is prophecy. Charity is part of the corporal works of the Church but her definitive task is to proclaim the good news, that is, to preach the truth of Christ. Church leaders are not asked to become efficient technocrats and solve the economic problems of the country, otherwise Christ would have just turned the stones into bread. The cross would never have been necessary.

Neither can the Church be choosy about which truth to proclaim. She remains the adamant champion of the life of the unborn, the stern voice against sexual promiscuity and against what Pope John Paul II's terms modern society's "culture of death." But the truth is one seamless garment, as the late Cardinal Bernardin preached. The Church must follow what he calls a "consistent ethic of life." The truth must be proclaimed not only about our personal moral but our social and political lives as well. No stones must be left unturned as Scripture goes.

In the current political crisis, other stakeholders would behave the way they have been trained. Politicians will be politicians, following their political ambitions, and businessmen will follow the bottom line. They are often not expected to be interested in the truth, but in what is expedient, what serves their interest. Only the Church is burdened with the task of speaking the truth, of prophecy. It is on this that her credibility rises and falls.

When the Child Jesus was lost, his parents found him in the temple, engaging the elders in discourse, in seeking the truth. He ought, he says, to do his Father's business. His bride, the Church, takes on that task as well. In fact, that is her sole business.

Another non-performing asset

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo responded to the final report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston on extrajudicial killings in the Philippines by installing yet another task force mandated to stop the unabated tide of political violence.

The government said it would not publicly dispute the report, the most comprehensive submitted to the UN by Alston since his preliminary report last February; but it compounded its failure to stem the killings with the establishment of another cumbersome mechanism that appears to seal the fate of the task force of becoming a non-performing asset. The response follows the proven dictum in politics that that the surest way to strangle executive action is to send a project to a committee, or a task force.

Under mounting international pressure from the UN, the Democratic majority in the US Senate and the European Union to stop the killings, the President issued Administrative Order 211, creating the new task force. The order was prefaced with the sermon that, "with the recent incidents of violence in the country, political violence has become a fundamental moral and governance challenge." The task force was mandated to "harness and mobilize government agencies, political groups, the religious, civil society and sectoral organizations and the public for the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of political violence." It was charged with "the care and protection of people and communities victimized and threatened with violence, and the promotion of a culture opposed to violence and for the advancement of reconciliation and peace."

Such verbosity alone diffused the focus of the task force, and overburdened it with a broad field of objectives. The omnibus new body comes on top of a layer of at least two mechanisms created to halt the killings, including Task Force Usig of the Philippine National Police in 2006, followed by the Melo Commission of inquiry into the executions, whose recommendations have hardly been implemented, and the Inter-Agency Legal Action Group (IALAG), also established in 2006. Alston's final report showed why the IALAG was ineffective in helping stem the wave of violence. The report said "the central purpose of IALAG is to prosecute and punish members of the Communist Party of the Philippines and purported front groups whenever there is any legal basis for doing so."

The report said "senior government officials are attempting to use prosecutions to dismantle the numerous civil society organizations and party-list groups that they believe to be fronts for the CPP." It pointed out that the IALAG "is an executive rather than advisory body and, while it includes representatives of various criminal justice, intelligence and military organs, institutional power and legal authority are concentrated in the Office of National Security Adviser," which provides the ideological orientation for their operations and thrust. The Alston report said, "It has been due to the efforts of IALAG that charges have been brought against a number of leftist lawmakers and persons who have been given immunity guarantees to facilitate negotiations with the NDF (National Democratic Front)."

The IALAG has been incorporated under the umbrella of the new super task force, but AO 211 has not redirected the national security orientation of the task force away from the objective of dismantling the political apparatus of the legal Left.

The task force expands the framework of the IALAG by bringing under its wings a number of government offices headed by Justice Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor. Its members includes representatives from the Departments of Justice, Defense, and Interior and Local Government, the Office of the National Security Adviser, the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, the Commission on Human Rights, and the Philippine Information Agency.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the President had armed the task force with "requisite powers" and funds to stem the wave of killings not only of leftist activists but also other cases related to "political violence." The task force is to handle all cases involving killings, including those handled by Task Force Usig. The new task force's scope includes the murder on Nov. 13 of Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar during the bombing of the premises of the House of Representatives. The expansion virtually involves a total mobilization of the entire machinery of the executive department having to do with national defense, national security and law enforcement.

Without a change in the national security orientation of the task forces, this heavy handed thrust confirms Alston's report that the government's strategy in halting the death squad executions is focused on neutralizing the "front organizations" of the communist movement and had distorted the criminal justice system so that prosecutors were going after the leaders of these groups instead of going after the killers.

"The priorities of the criminal justice system have also been distorted, and it has increasingly focused on prosecuting civil society leaders rather than their killers," the report said. "There is impunity for extrajudicial executions. No one has been convicted in the cases involving leftist activists, and only six cases involving journalists have resulted in convictions. The criminal justice system's failure to obtain convictions and deter future killings should be understood in the light of the system's overall structure."

In the light of the report's findings, there's little hope that a top-heavy task force made up of hardline, law-and-order ideologues can halt the death squad carnage.

Standoff at the Peninsula

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AS I'M WRITING THIS, MY EYES AND EARS are at the same time glued to the TV set, where practically all networks are carrying live news footage of the takeover of Manila Peninsula Hotel of forces loyal to Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, both of whom are facing trial for the alleged crime of coup d'etat.

By this time, most of you would know what had transpired before the current stand-off, and perhaps by the time you're reading this, you would already know what had taken place in the hours since the 3 p.m. deadline given to the military rebels. As of now, an arrest warrant is said to have been issued against the leaders of—what do we call it, the walkout, march and siege?—and armed government troops have been spotted massed outside the hotel, ready for an assault.

Though both Lim and Trillanes have given statements justifying their walkout from the Makati courtroom, with the senator saying that he thinks it was a "moral responsibility" to move for the downfall of the Arroyo regime, it still isn't clear what they or their followers wanted to achieve by the stand-off. Lim has admitted they want nothing less than "regime change," asking the people just to wait and see for the new leadership to emerge. From what I remember of the footage airing through much of the morning and afternoon, what we've seen mingling among the "Magdalo" forces have been the same old faces of the opposition, from former Vice President Teofisto Guingona to Bishops Antonio Tobias and Julio Labayen, and my old friend Linggoy Alcuaz.

But if the "Magdalo" leaders and forces have a "Plan B" aside from holing up in a five-star hotel and calling for support from the Filipino people, it still isn't evident. My hope, and I know most everybody shares it, is that such a plan would not have to come to pass.

* * *

THE LOBBY of the Manila Peninsula, bedecked in festive Christmas finery, was an incongruous setting for this latest blip on the radar of current Philippine history. While many social observers have bemoaned the apparent disengagement of the middle-class, the historical drivers of popular discontent as evinced in the different "people power" uprisings, it seems that restive members of the military have remained a continuing threat to the government.

Are Trillanes and Lim, leaders of the aborted Oakwood mutiny, merely continuing the power grab they had attempted but failed to pull off? Or are they, or their continuing hold on the sympathies and support of subordinates, symptomatic of a deeper discontent within the military?

Generals and even Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro made much of the fact that not all the military escorts of Trillanes and Lim had switched sides and sympathies, and that some had continued reporting to the "chain of command." But it is still an indication of how much influence the "Magdalo" wield that they were able to bolt the Makati courtroom and stage their protest without so much as a peep from their guards. And what of news anchor Ces Oreña-Drilon's report that she had "heard" rumors of just such a move the other night, and had in fact called Trillanes about it, though he denied any such plan? If a reporter had heard "reports," how could military intelligence have been caught flat-footed?

* * *

GOVERNMENT information functionaries scrambled to give their own spins on the event. Expectedly, they harped on the harm the military adventurists could wreak on the economy and on the country's reputation as a safe and stable destination for investors and tourists.

I had to agree with them, obviously. But it seems that the stock market, until its close at noon yesterday, showed no particular reaction to the events at the Peninsula. The stock index even rose a bit, though a stockbroker noted that "it could have risen higher."

Still, I don't think the choice of a five-star hotel, which was about 80 percent full at the time, was an accident. Certainly, it would give the military and the government pause before mounting an armed assault on a hotel filled with foreign tourists and business people, in the heart of the country's prime commercial district.

One thought did cross my mind as I followed yesterday's events. It must suck to be an Ayala these days. Just weeks after the explosion in Glorietta, for which government seems intent to let the firm take responsibility and shoulder the costs, including the lives lost in the tragedy, here comes another shocker. How long will it take for Makati, or for the country, to recover from this latest blow? How soon will we recover from the possible consequences, if the standoff comes to a violent and bloody end?

* * *

WITH THE President out of town, it was up to her underlings in Malacañang to project the impression that it's "business as usual" in government.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye tried to keep things light, and the press corps obliged him, although there was an air of desperation in the laughter. It also left a sour taste in the mouth. We were not fooled, and no matter how they tried to trivialize the event, it was nonetheless a matter of serious concern.

The officials may not have wanted to give the impression that Trillanes and Lim had plunged government into "crisis" mode, but still the Peninsula standoff deserved to be taken seriously, and if they wanted the people to keep some confidence in their ability to cope with such a situation, they shouldn't have been so transparent in their attempts to massage their image.

As I end this, my prayers go, of course, to both the Magdalo troops and their civilian supporters and the government soldiers sent to "arrest" them, as well as to the men and women in the media and other civilians caught in this wrinkle. May they all emerge from this unscathed.

Red pants for a revolution?

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

TEN YEARS AGO, DURING A COMMEMORATION of Bonifacio Day at the Liwasang Bonifacio, I sat in the crowd amused that then Mayor Alfredo Lim and Vice Mayor Lito Atienza had to wear historical straw hats with the top side turned up and marked with a bloody red KKK logo. As the government officials where all in formal attire, the Katipunero hat became anachronistic and ridiculous.

National Artist Nick Joaquin was in the audience, quiet and surly because he was roused from bed early and was not given the consolation of a cold bottle of San Miguel beer. He scowled. He glared. He demanded, "Where are the masses?" Nick repeated the question louder, but nobody paid any attention.

The question triggered an overflow of textbook information. I remembered "Great Plebeian," but didn't quite know what a plebeian was because "plebe" seems to be a word used in the Philippine Military Academy and university fraternities in a different context.

I looked at the dignified image of Bonifacio standing in front of the Manila Post Office: Guillermo Tolentino had cast him in bronze, handsome and brave, garbed in an embroidered barong Tagalog. He has shoes, and comes armed with both pistol and bolo. What happened to the man in the white *camisa de chino*, the shirt open to his navel revealing some very desirable "six-pack" abs. That older image of Bonifacio had the red pants folded up to reveal he was barefoot. His only weapon was a bolo, his other hand usually held the waving flag of the Katipunan aloft. Which image was accurate? Which was a representation of the man and the ideals he espoused?

Joaquin growled again, "Where are the masses?" They were not there.

Today at key points in the country—Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila, the Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan (now more popularly known as "Monumento"), in all the places with schools and streets and hospitals named after him, even the place outside Maragondon, Cavite where he was said to have been executed—there will be some sort of official commemoration today. The masses may be absent for the hero of the masses, but we should try and recall Bonifacio, the Revolution and our history. That is what the non-working holiday is all about.

I ask my students at the beginning of each semester to draw Rizal and Bonifacio, if only to see what they have learned and retained from kindergarten. I noticed this year that many students drew our heroes to look like Japanese manga heroes. Rizal is almost always shown in profile because he is copied off the one peso coin. This semester because of the aggressive marketing of potato chips, Rizal looks like the man in the Pringles package. Bonifacio, on the other hand, has no iconic distinguishing physical features, so we make up with bolo, *cedula* and flag. This year I noticed that Bonifacio was drawn with a cow, either riding it or standing next to it. When I asked my students if they meant a cow or a carabao, the students laughed nervously, realizing that since that these creatures are slow, Bonifacio would not have taken one during the Revolution.

I recall an interview with a descendant of a *revolucionario* that shattered my stereotype image of him in the *camisa* and red pants. This descendant asked me five times for the color of Bonifacio's pants ("*Anong kulay ng pantalon ni* Bonifacio?"). Five times, in between stories, I answered that red was the color of Bonifacio's pants. I felt the interview was useless and that my informant was probably senile, and yet this repeated query was meant to establish a point. Asked the same questions for the sixth time, I answered politely "*Pula po*. Why do you keep asking a question I have answered five times already?"

Then she asked the P1 million question that changed my life. Looking me in the eye, she asked, "*Ikaw*, Ambeth, *kung lalaban ka sa rebolusyon, magsusuot ka ba ng pulang pantalon?*" Would I wear red pants to the revolution? I resisted the urge to answer, "*Bakit hindi?*"

She explained that the battles were fought in wooded areas, so it was logical to wear something that would blend with the foliage: green, brown, even black. But wearing those screaming red pants would make Bonifacio an easy target. He would have gotten shot during the first encounter and would not have survived to fight another day.

This made me realize that even in historical representation, common sense is not common.

I shared this useless information with the descendants of Jose Rizal during a family lunch, leading one grandniece to exclaim: "So that's what happened! After they made the red pants, they discovered they had enough red cloth left over to craft the KKK flag!"

A swift reply came from the other end of the table: "Of course not, they made the flag first and when they discovered they had extra cloth they fashioned them into those famous red pants!"

Imagine the Rizal descendants one afternoon debating which came first, the pants or the flag?

We will never know the answer to what is yet another senseless question, but often questions can be more engaging than the answers. National holidays are meant to make us remember, to think, to reflect on an event or person who made us what we are today.

Use the holiday well before you trek to the mall.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Wrap it up!

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IT'S ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT WE'RE BEGINNING TO look at ways to reduce the use of plastic bags. Powerbooks introduced the use of cloth tote bags a year or two ago, with customers paying for the bag and then claiming a discount each time he brings it and buys new books. National Bookstore followed suit this year, offering a free bag for every purchase worth at least P1,000. Still another gimmick is a free "Green Bag" from SM Supermarket if you purchase at least P500 worth of groceries, and charge it to your Citibank card.

I worry though that all kinds of stores might offer their own bags, which will mean ending up with lots of bags. If these commercial establishments are really serious about environmental conservation, they should just offer a rebate, no matter how small, whenever you bring your own bag, whether it's a *bayong* or a *furoshiki*.

Furoshiki? That's a Japanese tradition that's being revived these days. The furoshiki is, simply, a square fabric, usually made out of cotton but also produced in silk, rayon and other materials. They were originally used in the public baths, to wrap one's clothes, thus *furo* (baths) and *shiki* (to spread out). Each furoshiki had its own design, the family crest for example, to prevent a mix-up with the clothing. Later, the furoshiki came to be used by merchants to wrap and transport the goods they were selling. Then it found still another use, this time for wrapping wedding gifts, the knot used to symbolize the union of two families.

Curiously, the furoshiki was also used by public officials to transport documents. Unwrapping the furoshiki, and taking out the documents in full view of people, was a way of showing they were not trying to hide anything. Maybe we should require that of our public officials whenever they negotiate a contract.

'Sayang'

The furoshiki fell into disuse after World War II, but is now being revived because of its combination of simplicity with versatility. Folded flat, they take little space, but when needed and with the right knots, they can become a hand bag, a waist bag, a shoulder bag, even a backpack. I've seen pictures of the furoshiki tied in such a way that you can tote around a bouquet of flowers, a violin, a painting, even a watermelon. Durian? Maybe not.

Last year, Japanese Environment Minister Yuriko Koike introduced a "*mottainai furoshiki*," *mottainai* meaning "what a shame that something goes to waste without having used its potential in full." Whew, what a long English translation, but in Filipino, we have, like the Japanese, one word to describe it all: "*sayang*."

The Japanese mottainai bag is made out of fiber from recycled PET bottles, to make a point about recycling, but the more old-fashioned fabrics like cotton will do as well. To encourage the use of the furoshiki, the Japanese Environment Ministry came up with a webpage (www.env.go.jp/en/focus/attach/060403-5.htm) where you can get instructions on tying it for different purposes. I'd also recommend a YouTube video showing how you can tie the furoshiki to get tote bags. Go into youtube.com and do a search for Kakefuda Kyoto.

The current rage is for furoshiki to be used to wrap gifts, which is most timely for the coming Christmas season. Some time back, I read about how the furoshiki could be used to gift wrap all kinds of objects, including books, wine bottles and potted plants, so I was thrilled to find, at the Lung Center Sunday morning market, a few furoshiki pieces being sold by Jane, who has a stall offering lots of Japanese ceramics and crafts. She doesn't always have furoshiki pieces but she and Ligaya, who has another stall nearby, have so much other interesting Japanese stuff that will make good Christmas gifts. Oops, sorry about the plug. (Disclosure: I'm doing this without Jane or Ligaya asking me to.)

Let me get back to the furoshiki. Unlike paper gift wraps, which can really be wasteful, the furoshiki wraps can themselves become gifts that can be reused over and over again. There are now even expensive designer furoshiki, produced in limited special editions so they might be even more expensive than the object wrapped in it.

The simplest furoshiki gift wrap method is to put objects diagonally on the cloth, folding two opposing corners over it, and then tying the remaining two corners in a square knot. But there are a dozen other variations that can be used, depending on what you are wrapping.

Innovating

There's much room to experiment here with the way you tie your own furoshiki, and the type of fabric to use. No need, certainly, to go for one of those designer furoshiki, which can run up to $60 each. The furoshiki I got from Jane was P50 each, and because she ran out of stock, I've been looking around for ways to improvise, especially with Christmas just around the corner.

We have all kinds of local fabrics that can be used to wrap it all up, from *hablon* to *sinamay*. I was also thinking batik pieces from Indonesia would be great here. The standard batik piece for a *malong* can probably yield three furoshiki pieces—maybe more if you want small ones.

The standard furoshiki measures 90 cm square, but you can make smaller ones. Look into using a *tubao* from Mindanao, which means you end up giving your friend a book and head gear. (That way, too, given the Filipino fear of rain, your friend can use the tubao instead of the book to cover the head when it's drizzling!) The Japanese even have the *fukusa*, which are much smaller furoshiki used to transport delicate items like tea cups.

On the other hand, I've found the 90 cm square piece is too small as a bag for, say, groceries, or as a backpack. You might want to go up to 120 cm for this. The Japanese furoshiki can go as big as 235 cm, used to carry a futon mattress!

There are no limits to how you can innovate, adding pockets and wooden loops as handles, or incorporating Velcro and other fasteners, although you'd be amazed at how properly tied knots can create secure, sturdy furoshiki bags.

I can imagine male readers groaning about this "girlie" stuff. But hey, the furoshiki can be quite male, too. I had to recover some of my knot-tying skills from Boy Scout days and was surprised at how the furoshiki can be used to carry around pretty male stuff like a basketball, or rollerblades.

Come on, be brave! Be an eco-friendly furoshiki-tying metrosexual!

THEY SAID

Driven to thieving

"Should not pardon also be granted to thousands of Filipinos who are now in jail for stealing much smaller amounts of money from the government? Many of them stole out of family need and not out of personal greed."

—Leonard de Vera, convenor of the No Pardon for Erap Movement

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GMA has no moral ascendancy to hit Burma

THIS REFERS TO THE NEWS REPORT ON President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for the military junta of Burma (Myanmar) to free prodemocracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. (Inquirer, 11/25/07)

I commend the President for having the mettle to condemn the present state of affairs in Burma, the black sheep of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) family. However, she has no moral ascendancy to issue such statements considering the Philippines' own political and socioeconomic track record.

Burma blocked the scheduled briefing that was to be given by the United Nations' Ibrahim Gambari because his message was something Than Shwe's government didn't want other Asean members and itself to hear. An official of the Arroyo administration blasted the report of another UN envoy, Philip Alston, on the Philippine government's culpability in the political and media killings here. The Burmese are living dirt poor amid the bountiful natural resources of their country. Filipino households constantly battle with poverty, hunger and income inequality as shown by independent studies and agencies.

Ms Arroyo's blast at Burma was but a classic example of the pot calling the kettle black.

—DENNARD D. DACUMOS,
4 Serrano St., San Simon Subd.,
Dalandanan, Valenzuela City

Traditional education still better for students

THIS IS JUST AN OPINION ABOUT THE REport on distance education. (INQUIRER, 11/11/07) I have nothing against it. In fact I am happy that our country has taken the road of modern teaching.

Indeed, distance education offers great convenience for students, but I hope it will not lessen the interest of the youth, like me, in acquiring knowledge through traditional education.

We must not lose sight of the value of full-time teachers and the lessons we gain from them—lessons that actually go beyond the subject they teach.

I believe in this observation of Henry Adams: "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." And that influence works best through traditional education where the student-teacher relationship is deeper.

—CHARMAINE AGUILA,
danica_aguila@yahoo.com

GSIS takes only 15 days to process papers

ONCE MORE, WE WRITE TO AIR OUR SIDE IN reaction to Solita Monsod's Nov. 10 column.

First, I'd like to clarify that I joined the Government Service Insurance System years before Winston Garcia was appointed president and general manager of the GSIS. I hope this somehow eliminates the presumption that I defend the GSIS only because I am beholden to him.

Second, we see the letter sent by Civil Service Chair Karina David in 2004 not as a harsh criticism but more as a clarification on the Premium Based Policy (PBP). The GSIS explained to David that the PBP was consistent with Republic Act 8291 (particularly, Sections 3, 5, 7 and 52). Very simply, it states that while the GSIS is mandated to provide protection to its members and their families against certain contingencies (death, disability, separation, unemployment or retirement), the law obligates members and their agencies to remit, every month and without delay, premium contributions.

Premiums are the lifeblood of any pension or insurance institution—be it government or private; and there is nothing oppressive with a policy based on "what-you-get-is-what-you-paid-for" premise.

Likewise, the GSIS is very prudent in accounting for properties issued to its employees, knowing full well that these were acquired with the trust money of government employees. This sense of responsibility is all the more demanded of retiring employees.

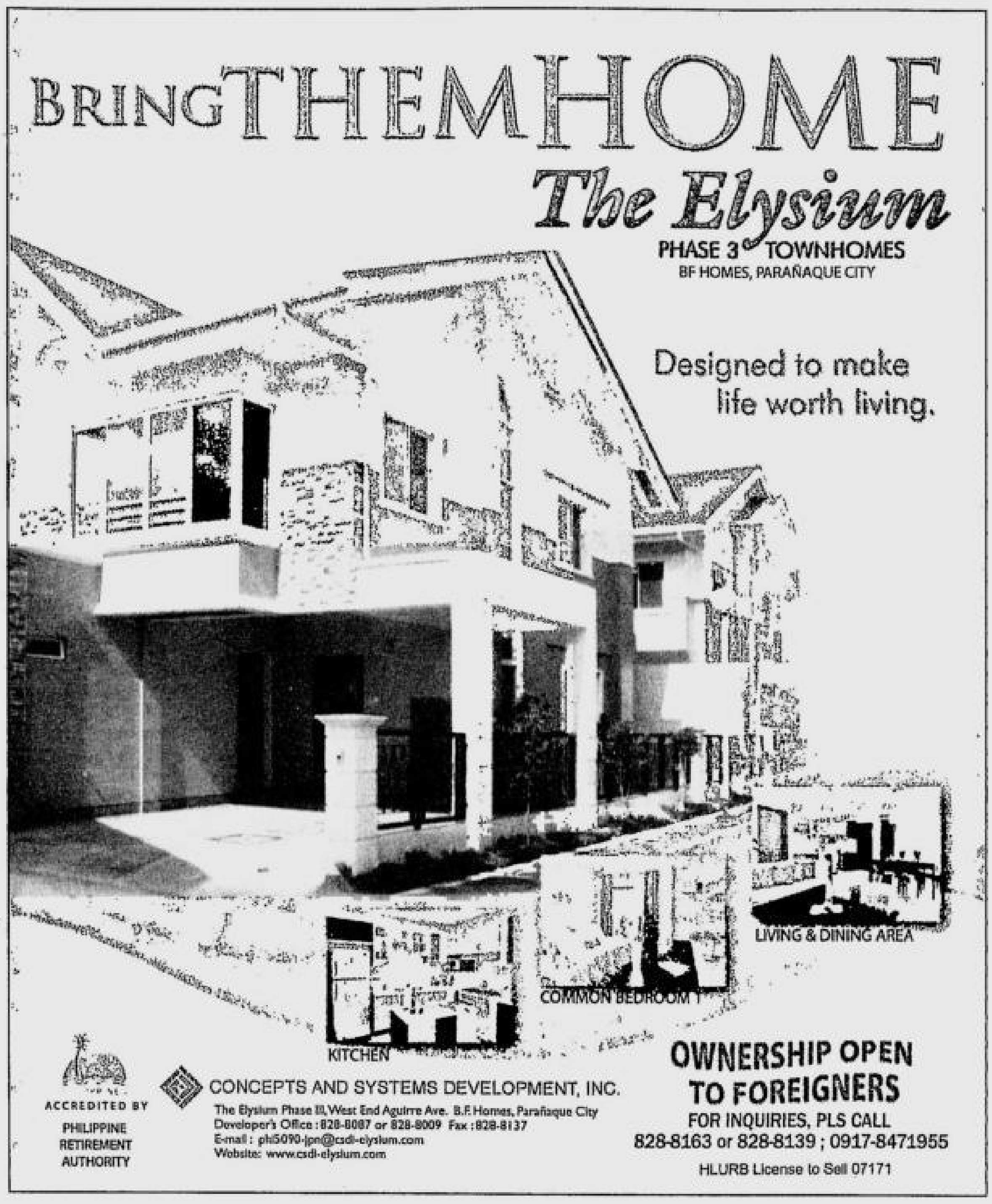
However, although the GSIS requires this high level of liability, there is no truth to the allegation of Conchita Confessor that the processing of GSIS retirement papers requires as many as 76 signatures. For instance, the GSIS Money/Property and other Accountabilities Clearance form—which shows that a retiree has properly accounted for equipment, cash advances, loans, etc.—requires only 15 signatures, including that of the retiring employee.

As long as all the necessary requirements are submitted, the processing takes only a few days. Documents submitted to Garcia's office are usually signed and released in 24 hours. But in the case of Confessor, her papers were sent to Garcia's office just when he took a leave of absence—his first in quite a while. When Garcia reported back for work, he immediately signed Confessor's papers.

Meanwhile, Raul Nazareno may want to recheck his eCard ATM account. Our records show that check number E06015200, dated Dec. 12, 2006, representing his dividend, was deposited in his eCard Plus account.

We are one with Monsod in correcting whatever faults we may have failed to notice in the way the GSIS performs its tasks. We also appreciate that Monsod reaches out to help our members with their problems. If she would find it not much of a trouble, may we request that she e-mail their complaints to us (crmd@gsis.gov.ph), so that we too can attend to them sooner. We promise to furnish her copies of our replies, detailing the actions we take.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA,
vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service Insurance System,
Financial Center, Pasay City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MILF: Peace now before radicals rule

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION Front (MILF) has urged the government to enter into a peace agreement now before more radical guerrillas take over the group's leadership.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, expressed pessimism for peace should more radical guerrillas rule the MILF.

"It is timely for the MILF to strike a peace deal with the government because the present leadership of the MILF is run by rational people," Iqbal told foreign TV personalities at the group's central committee headquarters in Maguindanao.

The Office of Muslim Affairs said a plan to preserve the peaceful coexistence of Christians and Muslims should be made in areas that would form part of an expanded autonomous region under the peace deal.

Undersecretary Ali Sangki of the OMA said the government granted Filipino Muslims a total of 35 settlements since the presidency of Manuel L. Quezon in 1935.

But Sangki could not say whether the settlements found in Mindanao fell in areas being claimed by the MILF as part of Moro ancestral domain.

Sangki said one of the Muslim settlements in Mindanao is in Wa'o, Lanao del Sur, where Christian-Muslim coexistence has been fruitful through a long-term project that the government granted the Kapatiran Agro-Industrial Cooperative in the 1970s through the Southern Philippines Development Authority.

The Wa'o settlement is close to areas covered by the MILF's Camp Abubakar, which fell to the Philippine military in July 2000.

Other prominent locations of Muslim settlements include one in Kabalan in Pampanga; the Maharlika Village in Taguig City, and one in Cebu City.

But Sangki said he didn't think settlements outside Mindanao were included in the ancestral domain claim.

The government and the MILF panels have yet to disclose the locations of the MILF-claimed areas, the most contentious issue of the five talking points laid down by the panelists.

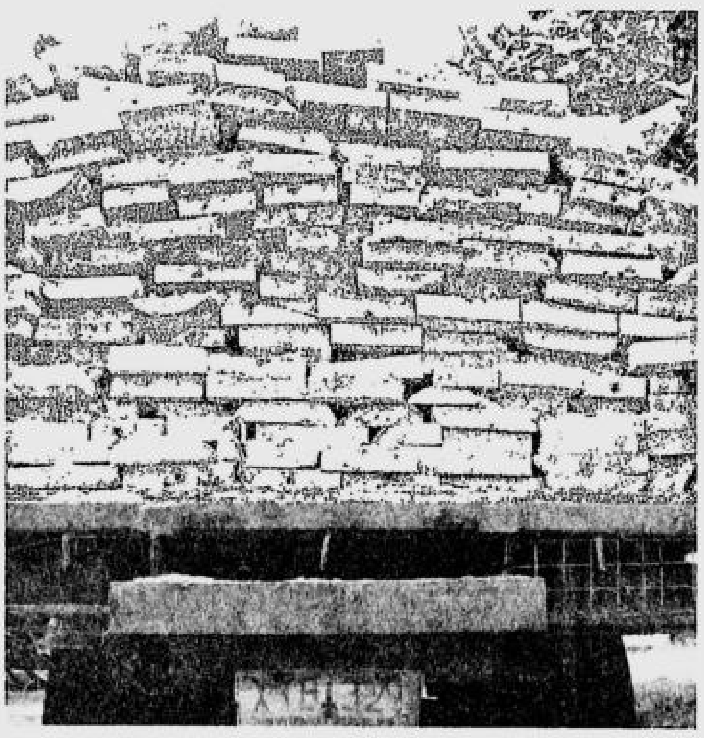
Peace negotiators have said talks were made on peace and security; development of conflict areas; exploitation of natural resources, and governance and ancestral domain.

Eid Kabalu, MILF civil-military relations chief, earlier predicted a peace agreement before the August 2008 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Political observers said that if a peace pact was signed before the elections, this could effectively prevent regional officials, including ARMM Gov. Zaldy Uy Ampatuan, from seeking reelection.

Ampatuan urged the MILF to unite with the Moro National Liberation Front. *Nash B. Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao*

Albay execs fear wipeout of coco trees



CONFISCATED coconut lumber rest at the Guinobatan police station after a series of raids conducted by government authorities in different villages of the town. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

GUINOBATAN, ALBAY—THOUSANDS of coconut trees are being felled illegally in this municipality, raising fears of a devastation equal in impact to that wrought by floods and lahar from Mayon volcano.

Local officials said at least 2,000 pieces of illegal coconut lumber had been seized last week alone.

Mayor Juan Garcia, in a meeting with city, Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and police officials on Monday, said at least 200,000 coconut trees had been felled since Supertyphoon "Reming" slammed into Bicol in November last year.

At least 619,000 coconut trees have already been lost to the typhoon itself, municipal Councilor July Tingson added.

"These coconut trees are our first line of defense. To let the illegal cutting continue is to invite disaster," Garcia said.

He added that the Guinobatan population was being robbed of its livelihood, with some 80 percent dependent on coconut farming.

On Saturday, a total of 1,214 pieces of abandoned coconut lumber were discovered in the villages of Doña Tomasa, Muladbucad and Masarawag, said SPO2 Isagani Nate, Guinobatan police chief investigator.

The cutting of coconut trees within the Mayon volcano area has been banned since last month, PCA Albay manager Edmundo Baylon said.

But despite the ban, the Guinobatan police said in a report that the illegal cutting had continued.

It said 193 pieces of illegally cut coconut lumber were intercepted in two trucks on Sunday.

In a separate operation, 1,164 pieces of illegal coconut lumber were seized at the village of Banao.

Two men, Rolando Cedo and Alfonso Calacday, were caught cutting trees without permits on Sunday.

Three unregistered chainsaws were also seized. These were allegedly owned by a Nora Berroya and a Guillermo Gordevilla from Guinobatan, and a Jun Garcia from nearby Ligao City. *Jaymee T. Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Storm surges sweep Negros houses; dengue puts Laoag City in calamity

RESIDENTS of Barangay Ilocanos Norte, San Fernando City, La Union cook for lunch after storm surges whipped up big waves that destroyed their houses. EUSEBIO G. AGUINALDO/CONTRIBUTOR

BACOLOD CITY—STRONG winds and waves brought on by tropical depression "Lando" destroyed over 100 houses in five towns in Negros Occidental early Wednesday.

A storm surge destroyed 171 houses and damaged 783 houses in Pontevedra, Pulupandan, Valladolid, Ilog and Hinobaan towns, displacing more than 800 families, according to a provincial social welfare report.

A storm surge occurs when the wind that swirls around a storm pushes water toward the shore.

Three houses were destroyed and 17 were damaged in Barangays Miranda and San Juan, Pontevedra town.

In Barangays Palaka Sur, Palaka Norte, Patic, Utod, Zone I-A, Zone I, Zone III, Zone V, and Zone VI in Pulupandan, 17 houses were destroyed while 407 were damaged.

In Laoag City, the budget department is working on the release of P2.5 million for the purchase of materials after the council placed Laoag under a state of calamity due to the rising number of victims of dengue fever.

Mayor Michael Fariñas earlier asked the council to declare Laoag under a state of calamity, citing reports from the city health office showing three people have died while at least 110 others have fallen ill due to the dengue virus in the last three months.

The amount that will be taken from the calamity fund will be used to buy defogging machines, medicines, insecticides and dengue test kits, Fariñas said.

The council also recommended that a defogging machine be made available for every five villages so fumigation could be done simultaneously to drive away the dengue-carrying mosquitoes. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas and Cristina Arzadon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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CHIEF OF STAFF
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO, QUEZON CITY

MESSAGE

On behalf of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, I congratulate the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AFPSLAI) as it marks its 35th Anniversary on December 1, 2007

As Chairman of this AFP Financial Institution, I am honored to say that we have once again exceeded our targets, beyond expectations, as we retain the leadership among non-stock savings and loan associations in the country today. This has been made possible by providing our valued clients with innovative, affordable and dependable products and services

Our strong commitment in our Corporate Social Responsibility as manifested in part through our Donations and Scholarship Programs describe our Anniversary theme, "AFPSLAI @ 35. Your Partner for a Better Tomorrow." More than a financial institution, AFPSLAI is a strong alliance established among all uniformed personnel in the course of their collective duty to protect the rights and welfare of the Filipino people

To the men and women of our workforce, accept my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for your dedicated service to the Association. I wish you all the best as we celebrate another year of outstanding service to AFPSLAI's stakeholders and the community

Congratulations and more power!

GEN HERMOGENES C ESPERON JR AFP
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Camp Crame, Quezon City

MESSAGE

It is a distinct honor and privilege to extend my warmest felicitations to the *Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc.* on the occasion of your 35th founding anniversary on December 1, 2007.

AFPSLAI for its 35 years of existence as an institution has set the long record of service and dedication in ensuring the welfare of PNP personnel as well as their families.

Your theme for this year's anniversary, *"AFPSLAI @ 35: Your Partner for a Better Tomorrow"*, is timely and appropriate for it represents the lasting desire of the PNP leadership to provide a high standard of financial service for its personnel.

We hope that in your 35th year, you will continue highlighting excellence and perfection in rendering services in the government's uniformed personnel and to our people.

Congratulations and more power!

AVELINO I RAZON JR
POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL
CHIEF, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE

ARMED FORCES AND POLICE SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, INC.
(AFPSLAI)
EDSA cor. Col. Bonny Serrano Road, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

MESSAGE

Over the years and in so many occasions, the stability and resiliency of the Association as well as the soundness and effectiveness of its business fundamentals had been put into test. Head-on, we met all those challenges.

Now, as we celebrate our 35th year in the industry, I am honored and proud to say that we passed all those challenges. AFPSLAI continues to reap financial and operational successes. All these have been made possible with the collective efforts of our stakeholders, the dedication and commitment of our workforce, the proficiency and expertise of the management team, the profundity of the Members of the Board of Trustees, and the continued loyalty of our members.

As the Incumbent President & CEO of the Association, I will continue to push on with my commitments for 2008 what I have started this year 2007. These are to:

- Sustain financial stability, profitability and industry leadership;
- Enhance credit management and operational excellence;
- Put a premium on good client relations to foster customer loyalty;
- Give importance to personnel as AFPSLAI's #1 resource;
- Identify and develop corporate social responsibility concerns; and
- Comply with the government regulatory requirements.

These commitments are embodied in AFPSLAI's four (4) major thrusts for 2008: Financial Stability & Profitability, Operational Excellence, Personnel Morale & Welfare, and Corporate Social Responsibility.

AFPSLAI will remain focused and committed in working towards attaining the Mission and Vision of the Association, notwithstanding the challenges, and come out still "THE PREFERRED AND MAJOR PROVIDER OF FINANCIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES TO MEMBERS."

Happy Anniversary at Mabuhay tayong lahat!

MGEN PEDRO CESAR C BAMBOANGA JR (RET)
PRESIDENT AND CEO

CORPORATE MILESTONES

FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Total Assets as of end-September 2007 aggregated P36.91 B, a slight decline of 1% from the 2006 year-end level of P37.35 B.
- Gross Income generated from January to September 2007 totaled totaled to P4.85 B, with a Net Income of P3.62 B within the nine-month period.
- Total loan production from January to September 2007 amounted to P8.58 B, which benefited a total of 65,819 member-borrowers of AFPSLAI.
- The Association prouds itself with a total membership of 403,877 as of September 30, 2007.

MAJOR UNDERTAKINGS AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Initiated development of new products/services and enhancement of existing ones, such as:

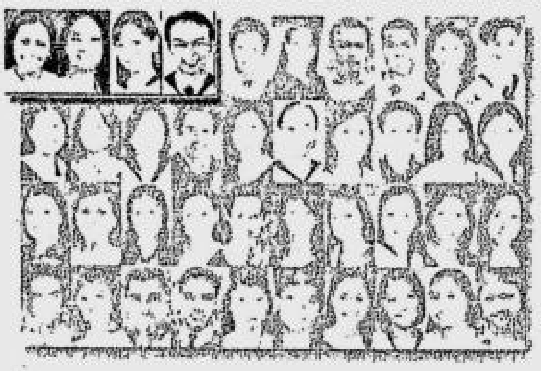
- Reduction of 1% interest rate for Salary and Emergency Loan and 2% interest rate for Back-to-Back Loan;
- Personal Loan is made available for members who are no longer in active duty with interest rate of 12-13%;
- The introduction of AFPSLAI Short Messaging System which enables members to receive important announcements, schedules of special transactions and product updates without having to visit any AFPSLAI Branch Office; and
- Construction and renovation of different Branch Offices to better serve the members.

Corporate Social Responsibility

- Scholarship and Educational Assistance Program for 100 qualified AFP/PNP member-dependents
- Donation Program
  - ambulances and medical/dental equipment to various AFP/PNP hospitals
  - construction of EP barracks for the AFP and the PNP
  - construction of low cost housing units for deserving AFP/PNP personnel thru AFPSLAI Kawal/Pulis Kalinga Housing Projects in coordination with Gawad Kalinga Foundation
- Granting of loan rebates
- Outreach programs for AFPSLAI member-dependents

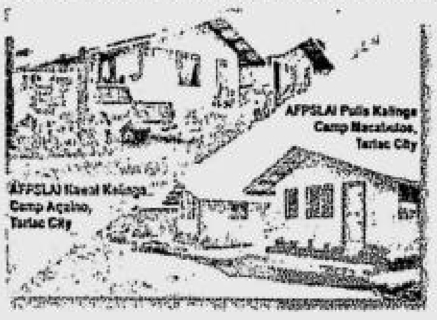
CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

AFPSLAI SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



FORTY (40) AFPSLAI SCHOLARS WHO GRADUATED as of March 2007.
The four (4) enlarged pictures graduated as CUM LAUDE - *L-R: Joncyl Marchan (Cebu), Kristina Mina (Sangley), Clarence Britanico (Legaspi), Mark Alvin Lusuegro (Legaspi)*

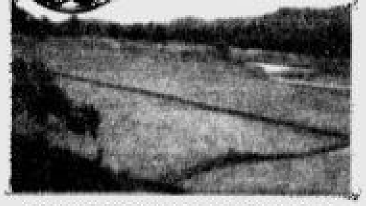
AFPSLAI KAWAL/PULIS KALINGA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



AFPSLAI DONATIONS PROGRAM

AWARDEES: SEARCH FOR SUCCESSFUL MEMBER-ENTREPRENEURS FOR 2007

SSGT OLEDARIO R INVIERNO
Trucking/Farming/Dry Goods/Groceries/Lodging House/Sea Foods/Water Purifying
PALAWAN BRANCH



OUTSTANDING ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

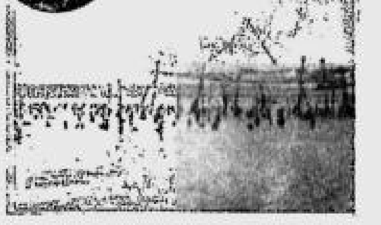
F/INSP MELCHOR C LABUCA
Construction Supplies/Hardware
CEBU BRANCH

MAUNLAD AWARD

PO2 ROMMEL P NARAWI
Videoke & Video Game Machine
ZAMBOANGA BRANCH

MALIKHAIN AWARD

SPO2 DANILO L LARUYA
Sari-Sari Store/Tahong Farm/Hog Raising
CATBALOGAN BRANCH



MAPAGLINGKOD AWARD

SGT REYNALDO B CAPON (RET)
Gravel & Sand/Welding Shop Steelworks
TACLOBAN BRANCH

MASIKAP AWARD

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Trillanes revolt crushed; 101 arrested

From page A1

later for questioning. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Six hours after the hotel takeover, Trillanes declared the uprising over.

"We're coming out! We're coming out!" said Trillanes, 36, looking none the worse for wear after staying most of the time in the opulent Rizal suite on the second floor mezzanine of the Peninsula. He said he was ending the standoff to prevent further bloodshed, gazing at the crowd of several hundred media people.

Like a criminal

With a sleeve of his black jacket slipping off his shoulder, Trillanes was dragged into a police bus like a common criminal. The senator looked defiant, towering over his captor, police Director Geary Barias, who was pulling him by his pants as he was loaded onto bus no. 206.

Trillanes' hands were tied at the back with what looked like a white straw.

There were no casualties during the assault.

At least 101 persons were arrested inside the hotel, Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon said.

Troops searched the Manila Peninsula late last night for Marine Capt. Nick Faeldon, one of the 26 Magdalo soldiers. An INQUIRER source said the police conducted 'a paneling' search at the hotel for Faeldon.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon announced that the military would undertake further "activities" to determine how the rebellion was planned and executed.

Incident closed, not solved

"We consider the incident as solved but we are not closing the matter because there might be some activities," said Esperon.

"We are relieved that it turned out this way. It wasn't bloody," Esperon told reporters shortly after dining on porkchop and rice with the military top brass at Villamor Air Base's operations headquarters, where he monitored the hotel operations.

Without giving into specifics, Esperon said the public may expect troop movements into Metro Manila from military bases around Luzon.

"We want to assure you that the chain of command of the Armed Forces is intact and all the movements that are happening are authorized ... but we encourage everyone that whenever you see troops, please report to us," he said.

"We are giving no warning to soldiers. They know who to follow ... nor is this the time for checking loyalties. We have done that already. So we already know if there are people who will join. And we assure you, we don't see that anyone is going to join them," Esperon said.

Walkout

Trillanes, 25 other charged Magdalo comrades and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim of the Army's Special Action Forces, walked out of their coup d'etat hearing at the Makati Regional Trial Court's Branch 148 at the 14th floor at around 10:42 a.m. *(See story Page A1)*.

The group marched through J.P. Rizal Avenue and then turned to Makati Avenue.

"We are joining the people in calling for the resignation of Mrs. Arroyo, because the President continues to violate the Constitution and continues to plunder the treasury, disrespect the rule of law and prostitute our institutions," Lim said during the march.

"Now is the time for the withdrawal of support. We are joining our people in the removal of an illegitimate President ... Units are joining from Mindanao to northern Luzon," said Lim, 52, who was detained in connection with a failed coup attempt in February 2006.

On reaching the Manila Peninsula, a commotion among the soldiers and reporters broke one of the glass doors on the hotel's side entrance facing Makati Avenue.

'She stole the presidency'

At the second-floor lobby, Lim, this time reading out from a prepared statement, declared: "She (Arroyo) stole the presidency from President Joseph Ejercito Estrada through unconstitutional and deceitful means."

AFTER THE FALL: The end came after authorities rammed a tank into the recently renovated Peninsula lobby and hurled tear gas inside.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Lim then recited a list of political controversies that had hounded the Arroyo presidency—the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal, the fertilizer scam, NorthRail project, Venable deal, the allegations that Malacañang had bribed congressmen into "killing" the latest impeachment complaint, and the spate of extrajudicial killings of journalists and activists.

"We see no other means remaining for the AFP and PNP but to exercise our constitutional mandate," he said. *(See Lim's full statement on Page A4.)*

The group then proceeded to a function room on the second floor and posted at least three armed sentries each at the two marble stairways from the lobby to the second floor.

The rebel soldiers' arrival stunned guests at the lobby, including those well into their lunch in the ritzy restaurants, but remarkably without causing any panic. They spent the time ordering sandwiches and drinks and even shared crackers to the reporters outside.

In good spirits

"Everybody was in good spirits," said lawyer Argee Guevarra.

By 12:30 p.m., a group of civilian supports composed of former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, "Running Priest" Fr. Robert Reyes, Bishops Antonio Tobias and Julio Labayen, former University of the Philippines president Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo, and JV Bautista and Argee Guevarra of the leftist group Sanlakas, had arrived and held a press conference at the mezzanine.

Also around this time, police had sealed Makati Avenue to traffic and Barias, head of the National Capital Region Police Office, arrived at the hotel with an aide de camp.

Barias, the first government negotiator at the scene, was barred by the Magdalo guards.

"Do they know I'm here?" he was heard telling one of the sentries.

Barias then called up a "mistah" (military school classmate) on his cell phone and was heard saying in Filipino: "I've established a foothold. All of the core group (members) are here. I can cordon off the area so there won't be any people power, etcetera."

"Should there be an evacuation, I'll take care of it," he said. "All of them are accounted for and I don't think there will be reinforcements."

Negotiators

At around 2 p.m., two of Lim's classmates from the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1978 arrived to serve as additional negotiators—Senior Superintendents Jaime Calungsod and Geronimo Preside, both of the Southern Police District.

This second attempt to negotiate failed, prompting Barias to give out orders at 2:15 p.m. to have the hotel cordoned off and for the guests to start leaving.

In an impromptu press briefing, Barias announced that a 3 p.m. deadline had been given for Trillanes and his men to surrender—or they will be arrested. The order came from Razon, he said.

"What we did is an obligation, we had no other choice," Trillanes told reporters before he surrendered.

"I entered politics. The people voted for me, but what did they do. They disrespected the more than 11 million votes that I got. They did not give representation to the people who voted for me," the senator said.

Tantamount to treason

"It's tantamount to treason if I don't do anything," Trillanes said. "There is no loss here. We just did what had to be done. If there is a loser, it's going to be the Filipino nation because ... Gloria is still in power and she will be there even beyond 2010."

But he added: "Like all evil regimes, there is an end to it."

Trillanes was elected to the Senate in May in what many commentators saw was a protest vote against Ms Arroyo.

"I stand here today, to declare my intentions as a former soldier and now a senator of the country," Trillanes had earlier said.

"I stood for the rights of the oppressed. We see now that this government will go to any length to hold on to power.

"You have been witnesses and victims of the kind of ruthlessness that the administration has been giving to the people," he told reporters.

To Bicutan

Trillanes, Lim and others involved in the six-hour standoff—around 30—were later taken to a detention center in Bicutan, Taguig, said Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao. "They will be processed there for investigation," Pagdilao said.

Initially, Pagdilao said the group was liable for contempt of court for walking out of the hearing of a Makati City court, to forcible entry of the hotel to possible rebellion.

Pagdilao also said police would also look into possible conspiracy.

Contrary to claims that the action was not planned, police stopped four jeepneys filled with Tondo residents about to proceed to the hotel. The passengers said they thought they were to attend a burial but later discovered the trip was part of an opposition recruitment for the Makati event.

Recruitment

Virginia Tutay of Isla Puting Bato and a member of the People's Movement Against Poverty identified with former President Estrada said that the people were paid P200 each while the jeepney owners got P700 each to join the Makati crowd.

Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque Jr. told reporters that all foreign guests staying at the Peninsula were safely evacuated.

The hotel management said 310 out of the 497 rooms were occupied before the drama started. *With reports from Alcuin Papa, Jerome Aning, Tarra Quismundo, Allison Lopez, Christine O. Avendano and Nancy Carvajal*

Gov't imposes curfew in Metro Manila

From page A1

the streets as long as they presented valid identification cards.

People who have no business being in the streets in the wee hours of the morning should stay indoors, and public transport should also stop plying their routes, he said.

But delivery trucks can continue their operations, as well as commercial establishments that operate at night.

"We won't enter establishments. Our curfew is only in the streets," Puno said.

He said the government resorted to the measure to allow authorities to eliminate residual threats following the Makati standoff.

Puno was optimistic that authorities could finish by today its investigation, including identifying those involved in the "rebellion," so that there would not be any need to extend the curfew.

"I hope that this is to be last time that we're going to be having to do with situations like this," he said.

Local curfews

Puno said that depending on the outcome of operations, the government might reimpose the curfew tonight.

"But my hunch is the curfew would be only until today," he said at a Palace briefing.

Puno said Ms Arroyo authorized the curfew after "we requested" for its imposition to allow the police to do its follow-up operations.

Puno and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said local governments and even barangays could impose curfews in their areas.

"But because of the magnitude and scope (of the situation), it needs the authority of the President," Gonzalez said.

He said the government's move to impose the curfew was a "constitutional authority."

Puno said the PNP had been directed to issue the curfew guidelines as he sought the cooperation of the public.

More checkpoints

The PNP, he said, will put up checkpoints in areas affected by the curfew and those found travelling during the curfew will be subjected to "serious scrutiny."

"The curfew is for the safety of the citizens not to inconvenience them," Puno said. At one point, he said the curfew was a "necessary inconvenience."

He pledged that authorities would be "reasonable and respectful" and asked those who would be subjected to scrutiny to make sure they had proper identification and were not carrying weapons "because it would be an immediate reason for detention."

Puno discouraged bus and other transport owners from operating during the curfew time.

Asked why the curfew was also imposed in the regions outside Metro Manila, Puno said this was because Regions 3 and 4a were "closely linked" to Metro Manila and that the police authorities wanted to ensure that "the entire Metro Manila is safe and sound."

Message to the world

In a televised address, Ms Arroyo said in Filipino: "We have repeatedly proved to the world the stability of our democratic institutions and the strength of this government. Our strong Republic depends on a strong economy which the whole nation desires."

Ms Arroyo congratulated police enforcers, with the help of the Armed Forces, for the speedy resolution of the Peninsula hotel crisis.

"I have ordered that all residual threats should be eliminated, so that the rule of law and and peace and order can be effectively implemented," said Ms Arroyo.

Act of rebellion

Puno and Gonzalez described the Trillanes-Lim action as a "rebellion."

Ms Arroyo said no one should doubt the government's resolve to implement the rule of law.

"The prosecution of rebel soldiers will be pursued until its conclusion according to law," she said.

She disclosed that more charges were being readied against the rebel soldiers, among others.

Strangers in the night

Malacañang had insisted on ending the Peninsula standoff before nightfall.

"There are strangers in the night," Gonzalez quipped.

Gonzalez said it was a situation that "could ripen to a serious case" and that the Palace did not want this situation to escalate.

Gonzalez told reporters that Trillanes and Lim went to the hotel to "generate public support" so as to eventually get support from the military "because no military action can win without public support."

He said that Trillanes and Lim's actions were connected with today's planned mass protest actions by the militant Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomista, which had called on the people to turn their back against the "morally bankrupt government."

Gonzalez said the government did not want the situation "to escalate."

Others involved

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales revealed he had received intelligence reports about a plan by "certain elements still entertaining" the idea of destabilizing the government.

Gonzales said these elements did not want to wait for the presidential election in 2010 and had planned to take action "this week."

Among those said to be taking part in this alleged new destabilization attempt was Trillanes and that those involved numbered 15-20 individuals, including some "surprising names," he said.

Asked who these surprising names were, Gonzales said he didn't want to identify them but these were "decent people" and that they were not identified with either the government or the opposition.

He said Trillanes and Lim's actions were "organized" and "planned."

Caught off guard

"I feel bad about this. I might have failed to appreciate the significance of the (intelligence) report," Gonzales said.

Asked why he did not take the report seriously, Gonzales said it was because it seemed unbelievable that a new destabilization attempt would be launched against the government when political parties were now holding conventions and preparing for the 2010 presidential campaign.

Although caught off-guard by the Trillanes-Lim action, Malacañang tried to downplay it. But they warned that the government would apply the full force of the law if the situation deteriorated.

"Let me just say we have faced a more serious situation before which we handled successfully," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"The President appeared very cool and calm as she issued her directives," Bunye said.

To prove that Ms Arroyo was convinced that authorities could contain the incident, Bunye said her official visit to Spain and United Kingdom from Dec. 2 to 7 would push through.

"That's how confident we are," Bunye said.

Visit cut short

Ms Arroyo had abruptly cut short her trip to Laguna province and hurried back to Malacañang by helicopter on learning of the Peninsula incident.

Ms Arroyo had just finished her speech at a security summit at Villa Escudero in San Pablo City, announcing to her audience that she was heading next for the nearby Franklin Baker plant.

She never got to inspect the plant.

As her convoy was driving to the plant, news of the Peninsula incident broke.

Guidelines/exceptions

From page A1

ing to and from the National Capital Region, Region 3 and Region 4A."

Those exempted are the following:

- Those who are transporting goods and services;
- Passengers of airlines whether domestic and/or international taking late or early flights, and their well-wishers;
- Emergency cases;
- Drivers of public utility vehicles like taxis, buses and jeepneys, and tricycles;
- Doctors and other medical/health care practitioners who are on actual duty;
- Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel in actual performance of duties;
- Emergency responders such as firemen, paramedics, etc;
- Nightshift workers such as those in call centers;
- Legitimate media people
- Provincial bus passengers and commuters coming to the said areas; and
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Those violating the curfew will be brought to the nearest police station/district for booking/processing.

They will only be released after 5 a.m. today unless they are under investigation for other offenses.

The violators will also be made to undergo a medical exam prior to release unless they waived it in writing.

For the duration of the curfew, authorities have suspended the permit to carry firearms outside the residence.

Manila archbishop urges GMA to heed calls for justice

By Beverly T. Natividad

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUdencio Cardinal Rosales yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to heed calls for justice and address questions of legitimacy raised by rebellious soldiers.

In a statement released to reporters as Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV occupied the Peninsula hotel in Makati City, Rosales denounced violence and said that problems should be resolved through peaceful means.

"Violence is evil and that violence is unacceptable as a solution to problems. Violence destroys what it claims to defend: The dignity, the life, the freedom of human beings." Rosales said quoting the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.

However, Rosales said that leaders and public servants must also heed issues on justice and legitimate leadership espoused by the protesting groups, noting that a faction of the military was again up in arms.

"What all long to see is humble, honest, inspiring and compassionate leadership among public servants who are completely disposed to unity," Rosales said.

The cardinal has also called for unity, saying that this is what the country needs to solve the hunger of the poor.

Bishops Antonio Tobias of Novaliches and Bishop Emeritus Julio Labayen of Infanta supported calls for the President's resignation.

The two prelates are advisers of the Kilusang Makabayang Ekonomiya (KME) that is scheduled to stage a protest actions at the Plaza Miranda at 2 p.m. today to mark the Andres Bonifacio Day.

"I want the people to go with what is right. If you think that the two soldiers, General Lim and Senator Trillanes have done the right thing then support them," said Tobias.

Providential, not accidental

Tobias clarified that he was making his position as an individual citizen. He described the actions of Trillanes and Lim as a "peaceful move."

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, distanced himself from hotel incident but said that he continued to support calls for Arroyo's ouster as a KME leader. He stressed that his statement did not reflect the views of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Tobias, Labayen and another staunch critic of the government, "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes were at Paseo de Roxas in Makati yesterday holding a Mass at the Ninoy Aquino monument there to pray for their protest action today.

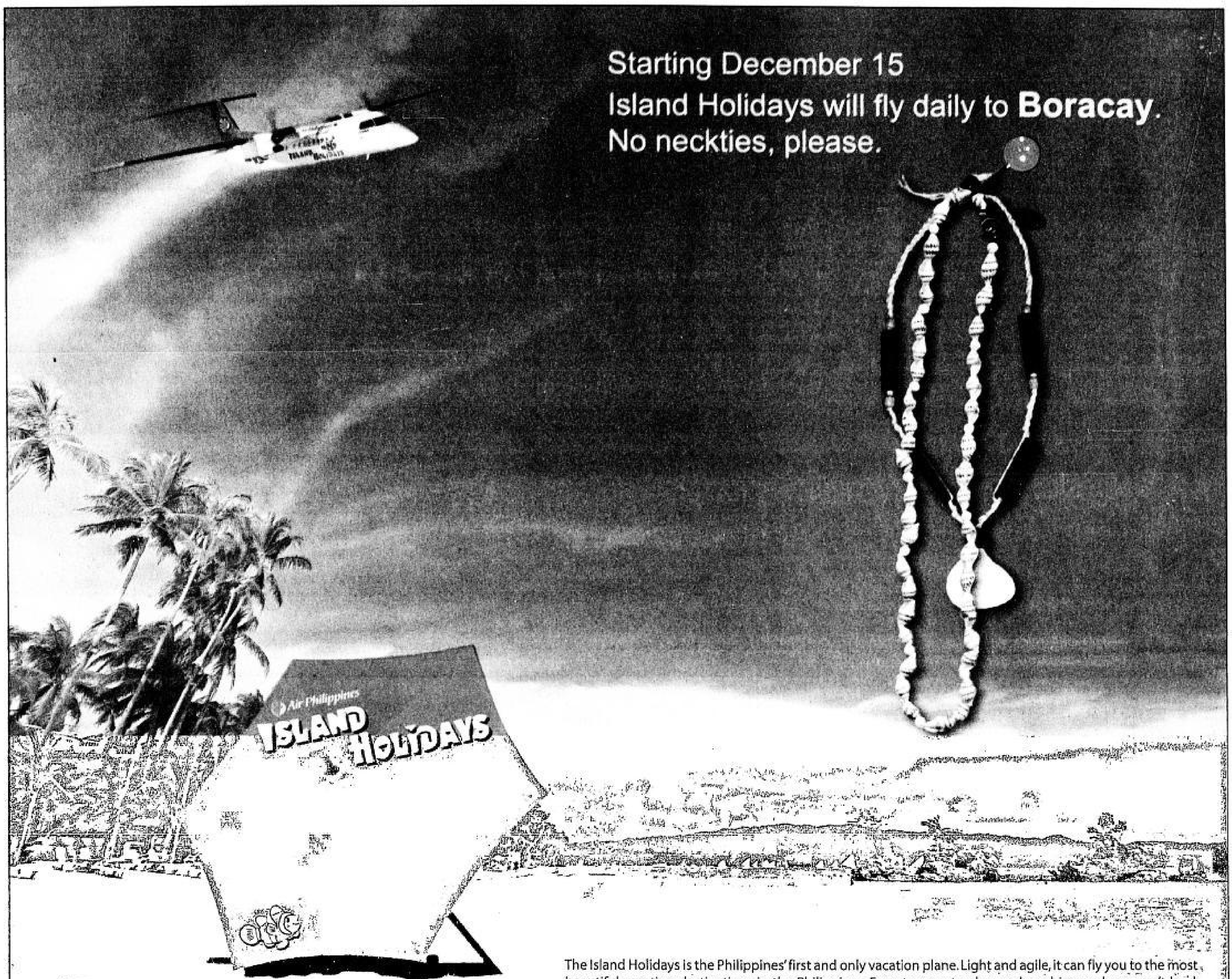
The three Catholic priests met with Lim and Trillanes at the Peninsula called on Ms Arroyo to resign.

Reyes said his coming to the Peninsula was "providential and not accidental." He said he just officiated the mass with the KME and was later requested to lead a march to the Peninsula as events developed in Makati yesterday.

'Immoral President'

Reyes appealed for people's support for the two soldiers asking them not to be spectators anymore.

"You can choose to watch and say that this is just one of those things or you can pray. But I will insist to ask people to act. If you want change then this is the time," said Reyes.



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Karen Bricso
Jonalyn Tanaleon

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Watch out for the 10 winners for November, who will each win a trip to Waterfront, Davao and a PowerShot A550 digital camera!

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MB – 46.85%
PS – 42.29%

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MB – 46.63%
PS – 42.97%

Balance Luzon
PDI – 63.89%
MB – 54.33%
PS – 41.96%

Visayas
PDI – 77.27%
PS – 53.64%
MB – 21.82%

Mindanao
PDI – 89.92%
PS – 56.72%
MB – 6.72%

Source: Nielsen Media Index Wave 1
2007 Figures: Among broadsheet readers yesterday.

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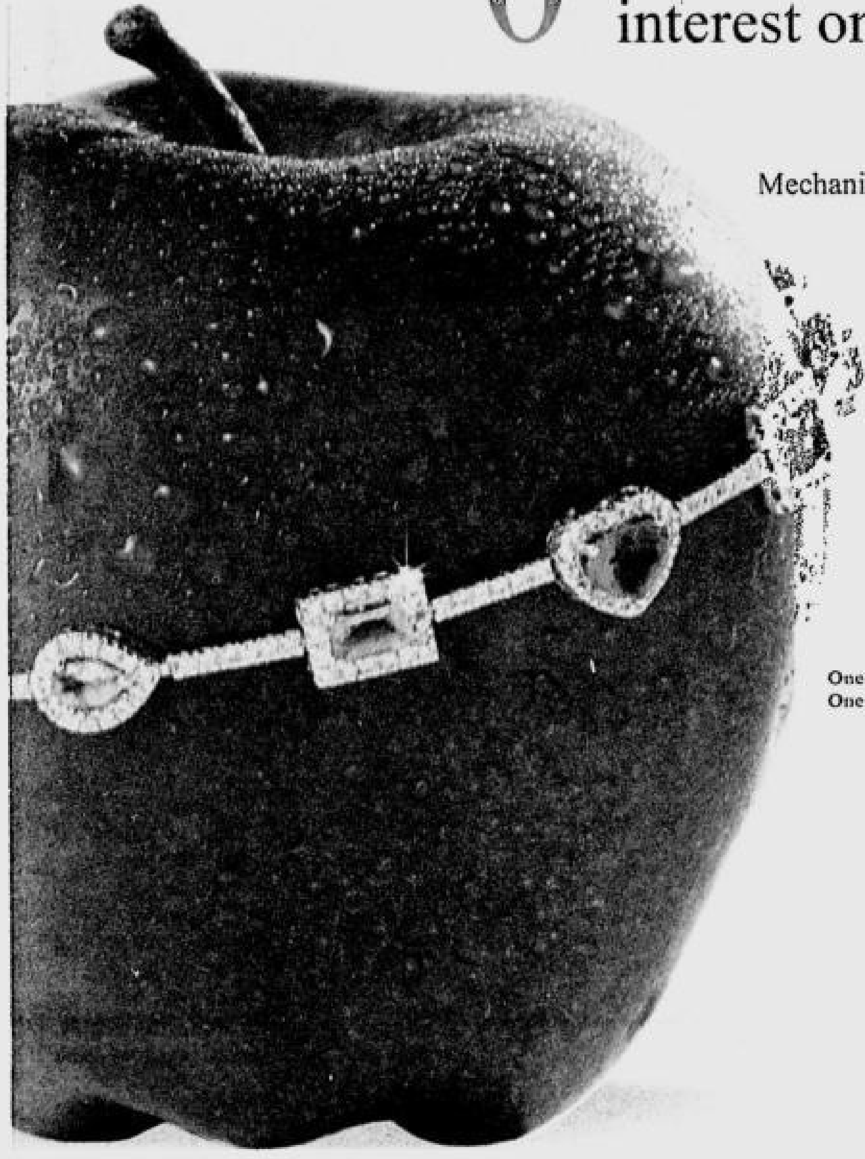

30 reporters held, probed, released

From page A1

ernment was monitoring all media broadcasts of the hotel standoff. Police even asked the broadcast stations not to show their assault positions in front of the hotel.

The National Union of Journalist of the Philippines (NUJP) deplored the detention of the media practitioners as "a blatant attack on the media's right to exercise its profession."

"Journalists are there just to do their job and inform our public. That is protected by the Constitution," Joe Torres, NUJP chair, told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

The detained journalists included Inquirer reporters Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and DJ Yap; radio dzBB's Lito Laparan; Malaya's Ashzel Hachero and Ellen Tordesillas; Manila Times' James Galvez; Manila Bulletin's Kris Bayos and Leonard Postrado; radio dzMM's Noel Alamar; Newsbreak's Jesus Ilanto; Sandra Aguinaldo of GMA 7; Sharmaine Deogracias of NHKTV; Ces Drilon and Pinky Webb of ABS-CBN, and others regularly covering the Makati beat.

But the Philippine National Police gave assurances that no members of media were going to be arrested.

PNP investigation

RAZON: They may be posing as media.

NCRPO chief Director Geary Barias said all media persons who covered the hotel siege would be held and brought to Bicutan for investigation.

Footage from ABS-CBN showed media members being led into a PNP bus to be brought to Bicutan. Some showed their wrists bound by plastic tie wraps.

PNP Director General Avelino Razon said he had received reports that some Magdalo members had posed as members of media. "Once we establish that they are really members of media, then they would be released," he said.

Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, PNP spokesperson, said the media members would be "processed" as part of the police investigation into the hotel occupation by rebel soldiers led by Sen. Antonio Trillianes IV and Army Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim. The two walked out of a Makati courtroom in the morning and demanded the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We want to know if any member of Trillanes' group mixed with members of media. Sometimes that is being done," Pagdilao said. "Technically, they are witnesses and we want to ask them about what happened. That would contribute to the investigation."

He said handcuffing the journalists was part of "standard operating procedure."

'Hands up'

The Inquirer's Cabacungan, however, said "the police were shouting at us when we were going out. They were ordering us to keep our hands up."

"They threatened to confiscate the cameras, handcuffed some of us with plastic. They took pictures with their digicams and videocams. Some were in shorts," he said.

Some reporters and cameramen were unable to leave the hotel after the 3 p.m. deadline for Trillanes and his followers to give up. The front entrance was locked, forcing them to take cover in rooms and dampening pieces of cloth as protection against tear gas.

The first "rescue operation" was conducted at around 5:30 p.m. after the assault team pumped in tear gas and crashed an armored personnel carrier through the front door. It destroyed the entrance and caused the lobby's carpet to catch fire.

2 media groups

The journalists were separated into two groups at that time: The big group accompanying Trillanes to a room on the second floor's left wing, while the small one huddled at the right wing open balcony.

Police officers in assault gear and gas masks rushed up the second floor to usher the reporters and cameramen to safety.

But outside the hotel's entrance, media members were told that they would be temporarily held and brought to Bicutan.

Pagdilao said the PNP would look into reports some members of its Special Action Force (SAF) pointed their high-powered firearms at mediamen.

He said there was definitely no crackdown on media. "We want to assure our friends that there is no intention to crack down on media," he said.

Villar, Pangilinan

Senate President Manuel Villar decried the "unreasonable and rough treatment accorded to the media who were carrying out their duties and risking their lives in covering the Makati incident."

"This conduct clearly violates the rights of media practitioners and makes a mockery of the implementation of our laws," he added.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan condemned the "illegal, reckless and unwarranted" detention.

"This latest attack against the press reflects the deplorable condition of journalism practitioners in particular and of human rights in general in this country," Pangilinan said in a statement.

"It is not just an attack against journalists. It is, first and foremost, an attack against the constitutional right of the people to free speech. It is censorship in its purest form. It is prior restraint. The chilling effect created by this latest assault on journalists is not just an attack on the people's right to free speech but is also a blow on our rule of law and democracy." *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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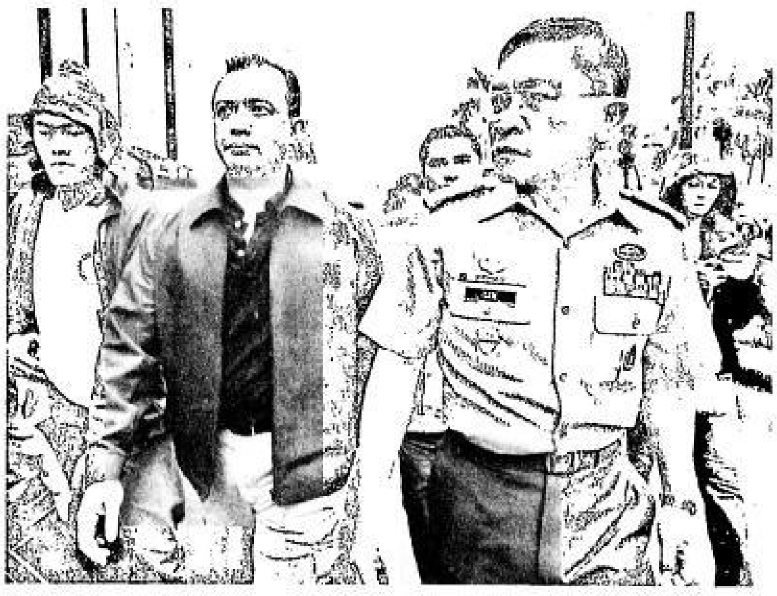
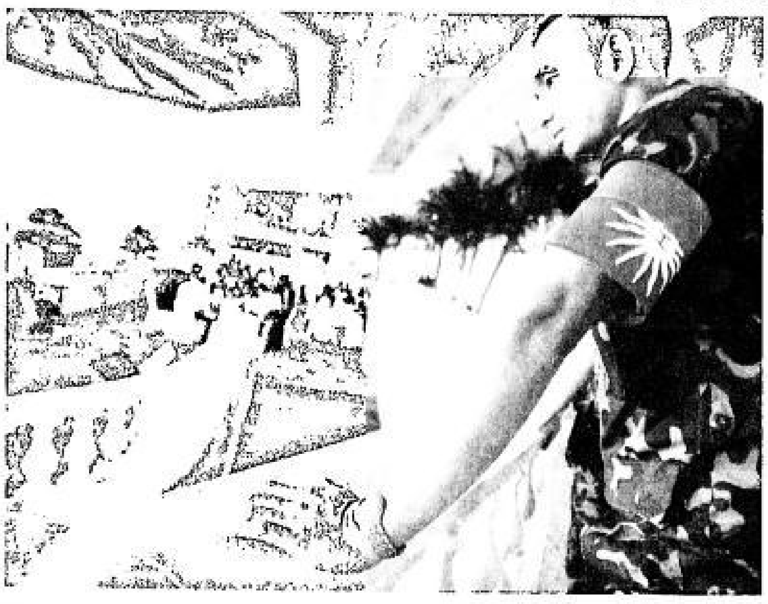
It's time everyone flies.

"COME AND JOIN US," Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and Gen. Danilo Lim, formerly chief of the Scout Rangers, call out to onlookers as they lead about 30 Magdalo soldiers through J.P. Rizal in Makati on their way to the Peninsula after walking out of a court hearing. REM ZAMORA



MAGDALO MUTINEER stands guard by the broken glass door of the hotel's side entrance facing Makati Avenue. The door was damaged after a commotion between reporters and soldiers. ERIK ARAZAS



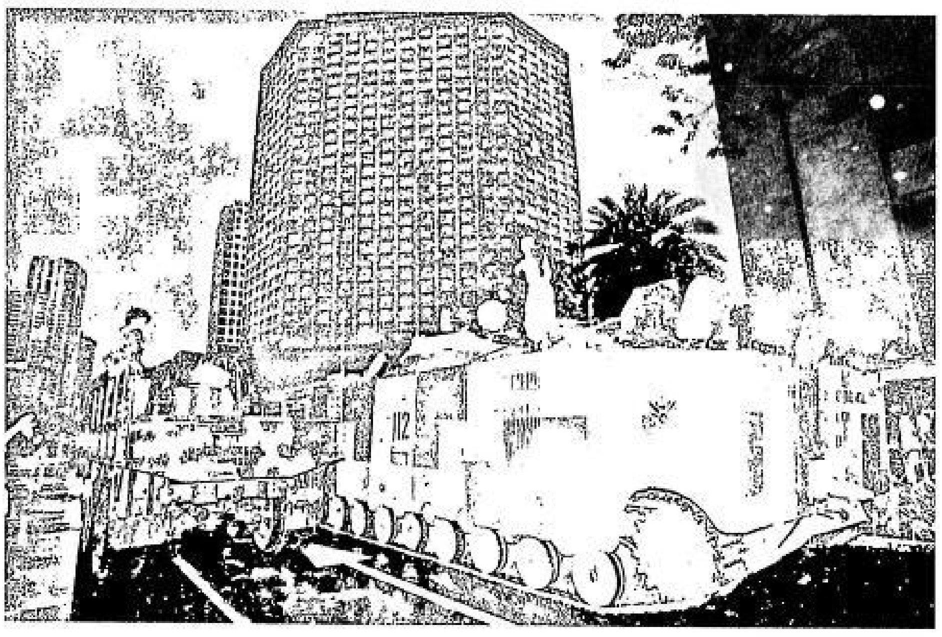
PROTECTED: At the Col. Lauro D. Dizon Memorial National High School in San Pablo City, Laguna, President Arroyo is surrounded by her close-in security from the PSG as the breaking news unfolds. She rushes back to the Palace by chopper. LYN RILLON

THIS IS NO SANTA'S LIST: In a prepared statement, Brig. Danilo Lim recites a litany of the alleged sins of the Arroyo administration. He's flanked by Trillanes, ex-Vice President Teofisto Guingona and ex-UP president Francisco Nemenzo. REM ZAMORA

NEVER SO FEW: Civilian supporters of the Magdalo soldiers link arms to block the media from getting near the room where Trillanes and Lim are holding a meeting. REM ZAMORA

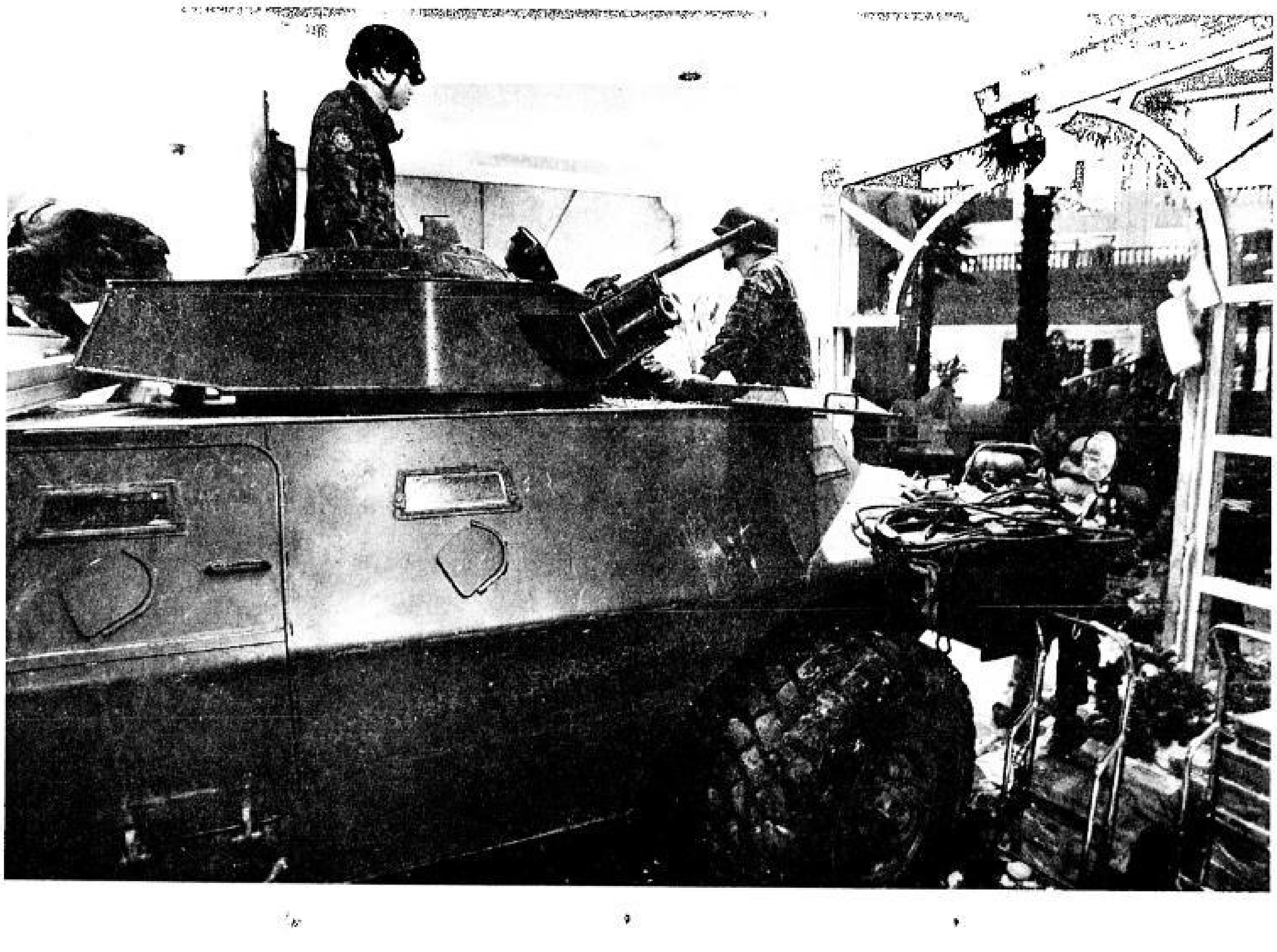
TAKE-CHARGE GUY: Director Geary Barias of the NCRPO is blocked by Magdalo guards at the stairs leading to the second floor function room where Trillanes and company are holed up. Later, Barias issues a deadline, evacuates all hotel guests, cordons the area and orders the assault. ERIK ARAZAS

AFTER THE SIEGE: A cast of characters—police, rebels, the media and the curious—mill about the Peninsula lobby after the surrender of the Magdalo group following the ramming of an APC through the hotel's main entrance and the firing of tear gas into the lobby. EDWIN BACASMAS



SEALED TO TRAFFIC: At the intersection of Ayala and Makati Avenues, a tank is positioned for the duration of the "situation." JOAN BONDOC

5-STAR LOBBY comes complete with an APC. It rammed its way into the Peninsula lobby sending a chilling warning to the Magdalo rebels. EDWIN BACASMAS



EVACUATION: Police ordered the evacuation of all hotel guests. The Peninsula announced it would pay all the charges at the hotels its guests were transferred to up to noon today, Friday. ERIK ARAZAS

Late SPORTS

More Sports, including SEA Games, on A29-A32

PHAREX'S Elmer Espiritu, Edilgusto Soriano and Ronnie Matias gang up on a driving Jason Ballesteros of Mail and More. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Raiders derail Road Kings

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE QUARTERFINAL BONUS REMAINED up for grabs as Bacchus spoiled Toyota Balintawak's bid and Mail and More scored a key victory to forge a playoff for the twice-to-beat incentive.

Already out of contention, the Bacchus Raiders stunned the Toyota Road Kings with a 71-51 rout at the end of the pool round in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

And the Mail and More Comets forged a winner-take-all match with the Road Kings at 3 p.m. tomorrow following a 75-70 triumph over the Pharex Medics in the nightcap for a share of the Pool B lead at 5-5.

"It's a one-on-one game, the better team wins (in the playoff)," said Comets coach Allan Gregorio.

In the first game, Jerwin Gaco and Jorel Cañizares starred as Harbour Centre scored an 87-75 triumph over San Mig Coffee.

Harbour Centre and Hapee earned outright semifinal berths even before the pool round.

STANDINGS	W	L
POOL A		
Hapee	9	0
Harbour	7	2
SMig Coffee	3	6
POOL B		
Toyota Bal.	5	5
Mail & More	5	5
Pharex	2	8
Bacchus	1	9

GAME TOMORROW
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
3 p.m.—Mail and More vs Toyota Balintawak

The scores:

First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 87—Gaco 11, Fernandez 11, Malabanan 10, Cañizares 9, Jahnke 6, Maierhofer 6, Tang 6, Mercado 5, Vergara 5, Asoro 5, Ababou 4, Gamboa 4, Taylor 3, Dizon 2.

SAN MIG COFFEE 75—Dalafu 17, Pascual 12, Arao 9, Custodio 8, Luanzon 7, Rañeses 6, Saldua 5, Bolocon 5, Dela Peña 2, Del Rosario 2, Angeles 2, Sorongon 0, Aguada 0, Sison 0.

Quarters: 20-15, 51-36, 74-53, 87-75

Second Game

BACCHUS 71—Labagala 18, Raymundo 12, Thiele 11, Mondragon 6, Guevarra 6, Mendoza 6, Dizon 4, Martinez 3, Cagoco 3, Viardo 2, Fampulme 0, Llagas 0, Dela Cruz 0.

TOYOTA BALINTAWAK 51—Sta. Maria 12, Casio 8, Jaime 7, Rodriguez 6, Jazul 5, Alcaraz 4, Guerrero 3, Villanueva 2, Hayes 2, Faundo 1, Sena 1, Balgos 0, Aldave 0, Dedicatoria 0.

Quarters: 21-10, 42-21, 58-37, 71-51

Third Game

MAIL AND MORE 75—Gregorio 18, Arellano 11, Ballesteros 10, Baracael 10, David 8, Misa 4, Co 4, Canlas 4, Santos 2, Masbang 2, Mendoza 2, White 0.

PHAREX 70—Matias 13, Co 13, Oreta 12, Espiritu 7, Aquino 5, Soriano 5, Yambao 4, De Guzman 4, Allera 4, Gerilla 3, Allad 0, Bulawan 0.

Quarters: 20-14, 39-33, 58-48, 75-70

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SMART THE POWER TO LEAD

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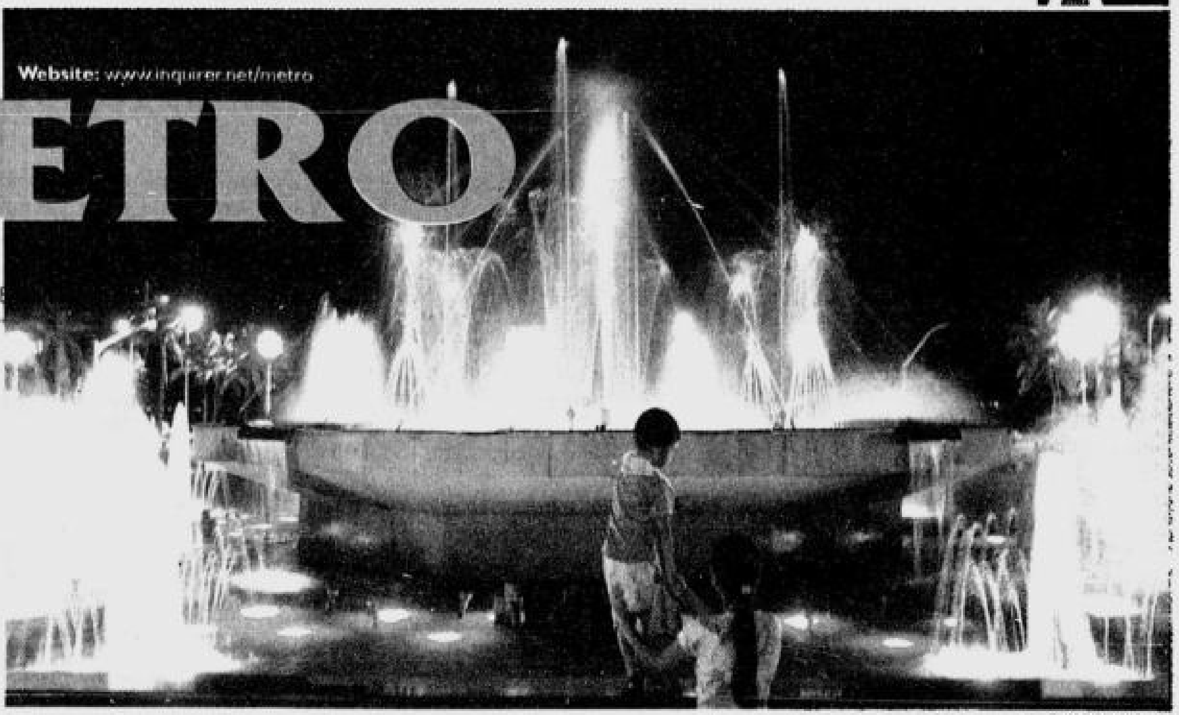


JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

FOUNTAIN DISPLAY

A mother and her son are fascinated with the colorful lights surrounding the fountain at Rajah Sulayman Park on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

CA threatens to hold colonel

Court wants full report on Burgos' abduction

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE MILITARY'S PROVOST Marshal General may be placed under the Court of Appeals' custody if he fails to produce the rest of his report on a lost license plate that may help in the search for missing activist Jonas Burgos.

Justice Remedios Salazar Fernando of the Court of Appeals' Seventh Division said Col. Arthur Abadilla should submit in next week's hearing, "with or without the approval of the Secretary of National Defense," the portion containing affidavits of soldiers who were investigated.

If Abadilla failed to comply, he would be placed under the court's custody, Fernando said.

"There will be no more excuses," Fernando said during the hearing yesterday on the habeas corpus petition of Burgos' mother Edita.

Fernando gave the ultimatum after Solicitor General Amparo Tang said the affidavits could not be submitted because Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro had yet to be informed about it.

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. already approved the declassification of the documents.

Tang said Abadilla would have to wait for Teodoro's response before releasing the documents. She added Abadilla could not bring the documents because they were with Teodoro.

Esperon declassified earlier the first portion of Abadilla's report that was submitted to the Court of Appeals. But Burgos' family said it was incomplete and contained only the summary of the investigation.

They asked the court to subpoena the portion of the report containing the soldiers' affidavits on the loss of a license plate (TAB-194) in their custody. Burgos' abductors had a similar license plate.

Fernando said she found it difficult to believe that when the Provost Marshal General report was declassified, the annexes were not included, as Abadilla claimed.

Burgos, son of the late press freedom fighter Joe Burgos, was reportedly abducted April 28 at a Quezon City mall. He has not been seen since. His family believes the military was involved in his disappearance.

But authorities have blamed the New People's Army for the abduction.

Cops tag Salapuddin, Hataman 'masterminds' in blast

By Leila B. Salaverria

A FORMER LAWMAKER AND A party-list representative were tagged as the masterminds of the deadly explosion at the House of Representatives that killed Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar.

Former Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin, Anak Mindanao Party list Rep. Mujiv Hataman and his brother Jim, and police officer Bayan Judda were among those charged with multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder by the police.

Philippine National Police legal officer Virgilio Pablico said Salapuddin and the Hataman brothers masterminded the blast targeting Akbar.

The Basilan congressman was among four fatalities in the Nov. 13 explosion.

Fingerprints

Pablico said the Hataman brothers "induced" the other suspects to kill Akbar, while "(Salapuddin's) fingerprints are all over the place."

As this developed, another suspect, former Tuburan, Basilan Mayor Hajarun Jamiri refused to sign during the preliminary investigation yesterday the sworn statement he made to the police.

Jamiri's lawyer Eduardo Ariba said the former mayor made the statement at the PNP "involuntarily" and the lawyer with him then was not of his own choosing.

Ariba said his client's refusal yesterday to sign the statement before Department of Justice prosecutors was tantamount to a retraction.

But Pablico was unfazed by Jamiri's decision.

Admitted participation

"Kahit naman umatras siya yung ebidensya nandun na eh.. (Even if he makes a retraction, the evidence is already there). He admitted his participation in the conspiracy and he pointed to the other participants," he told reporters.

In the case submitted to the DOJ, the PNP said Jamiri said the Hatamans were the ones who induced him assassinate Akbar, purportedly to insure peace in Basilan.

The PNP said another suspect, Ikram Indama, identified Salapuddin as the "mastermind." Indama reportedly said the plot was discussed in a Quezon City coffee shop and in Mujiv's house.

New Manila transport hub opens next year

By Allison W. Lopez

A TRANSPORT HUB DESIGNED to unclog traffic and offer safe passage for commuters will open next year in Ermita, Manila.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held the other day for the Park N Ride Multimodal Terminal at the corner of Arroceros Street and Quezon Boulevard.

Estelita Javier, Park N Ride vice president for business development, said at least 35 buses plying the northbound routes could be accommodated at the one-hectare terminal.

She said that with the terminal, buses would no longer have to park on the streets while loading and unloading passengers, thus causing roadblocks.

"In coordination with bus owners, we're also planning to offer seat reservations so commuters are assured of space and they won't have to wait in line," she said.

The new terminal, which is expected to be finished in July 2008, is near the Light Rail Transit Central Station, Manila City Hall, Post Office and the University Belt area. It is across the Metropolitan Theater which is being renovated.

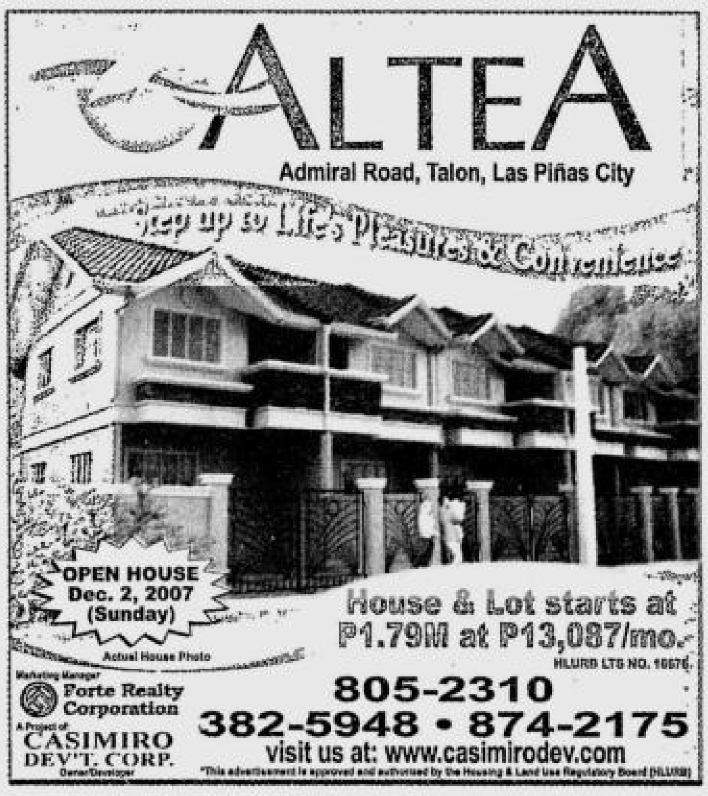
"There will also be food kiosks and non-food outlets, clean restrooms, a waiting area, a ferry terminal, and ample security," Javier said.

"Mayor Alfredo Lim has been supportive of this project. His aim is really to decongest traffic in Manila," said Javier.

DID YOU KNOW

THE BONIFACIO monument in front of Vinzons Hall at the University of the Philippines Diliman was originally located in Balintawak, Quezon City. The monument, created by sculptor Ramon Martinez, was unveiled on Sept. 3, 1911. It later became famous as a commemoration of the Cry of Balintawak.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research



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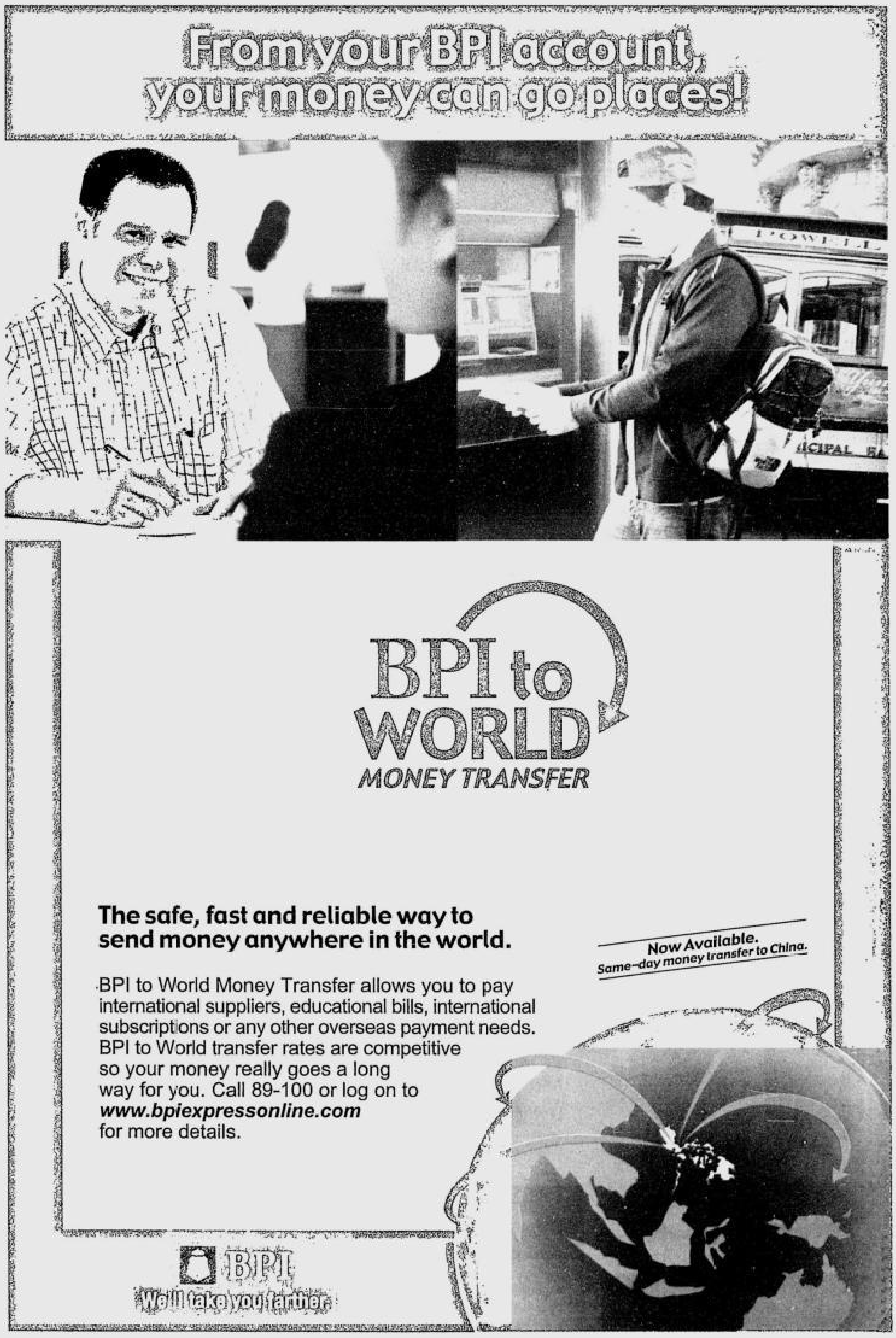

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MV Doulos visits Manila for last time

By Allison W. Lopez

MORE THAN JUST SELL CHEAP BOOKS, volunteers of the MV Doulos, also known as the "floating bookstore," get off the ship one day a week to reach out to prisoners, reformed addicts and orphans, bringing education and hope to the countries they visit.

But after six annual visits to the Philippines, the MV Doulos and its ambassadors of goodwill and peace will share not only books but their colorful lives with Filipinos for the last time as the 93-year-old ship is scheduled to "retire" in 2010.

The MV Doulos, which docked around 3 p.m. yesterday at Manila's Pier 13, carried a mix of 350 volunteers from 50 countries —some clad in their national costumes—as they warmly welcomed Manila city officials, principals, teachers and media persons inside the ship.

"If we had a home port in Asia, it would be Manila. We are blessed with the hospitality of this country," said ship captain Ashley Macdonalds.

Built in 1914 and only two years younger than the Titanic, Macdonalds said that unlike the ill-fated ship's boast that it could not be sunk, "God is keeping this ship afloat."

The bookshop, open today from 10 a.m.-10 p.m., carries about 500,000 books from the United States and the United Kingdom.

The MV Doulos was in Malaysia before it arrived in Manila yesterday. It will stay in the port area behind the Manila Hotel until Dec. 27. The ship's next stop is Subic in Zambales province, after which it will leave the country to continue its tour of the world until the ship is "retired" in three years.

Joy Pano, one of nine Filipino crew members on board, said it was her passion to see the world that prompted her to be a volunteer. She said they do not receive any salary for keeping the ship running. In fact, they each had to pay $400 to stay in the Doulos, Pano added.

DepEd-NCR blamed for typhoon advisory

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE MILITANT ALLIANCE OF CONcerned Teachers (ACT) blamed the "sheer incompetence" of Department of Education-National Capital Region personnel for the wrong advisory on the suspension of classes early this week.

ACT chair Antonio Tinio told the INQUIRER the DepEd had already released "very clear guidelines" on the suspension of classes.

The department should just follow the guidelines, he said.

DepEd Order Number 28 (series of 2005) says "when typhoon signal number one is raised by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), classes at the pre-school level shall be automatically suspended."

On Tuesday, an unnamed DepEd-NCR official announced the suspension of classes in pre-school and elementary levels in Metro Manila after Pagasa raised typhoon signal number one.

Lapus said yesterday they "promptly corrected the wrong broadcast" but some media organizations were partly to blame for the wrong advisory.

"They presumed classes in the elementary level were automatically suspended," Lapus told the INQUIRER.

He said DepEd Order No. 28 "remains unchanged."

Tinio said, to avoid confusion, the DepEd should make one announcement very early in the morning.

Last week, DepEd insiders asked the Office of the President to "make the proper clarification" on who had the last say on suspension of classes.

Both the DepEd and Department of National Defense claimed it was their responsibility.

Shortly before leaving for Vietnam for last week's Association of Southeast Asian Nations Education Forum, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus reiterated the agency's guidelines on the suspension of classes to "improve coordination among concerned agencies."

The DND, on the other hand, cited Administrative Order No. 196 issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Sept. 11 that empowers Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, chair of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), to "suspend classes at any or all levels nationwide as well as in specific localities during times of disaster or calamities, whether natural or man-made."

In her order, the President said "the secretary of national defense as concurrent chair of the NDCC is in the best position to readily assess whether there is a need to suspend classes in times of disasters or calamities."

Teodoro is "also authorized to direct all the appropriate agencies for the implementation of the suspension of classes."

But Lapus said "the ultimate responsibility for determining whether or not their children should attend their classes is given to the parents."

Meanwhile, the DepEd has reactivated the task force monitoring the situation in typhoon-affected areas.

Sangil said the department's teaching and non-teaching personnel were "also instructed to coordinate closely with the NDCC and other concerned government agencies, as well as local government units, in handling disaster operations."

In a related development, Lapus ordered an assessment of damage to school buildings caused by typhoons Mina and Lando.

Reports reaching the DepEd said damage to public schools in the Cordillera Administrative Region and in Cagayan Valley amounted to P102 million and P101.4 million respectively.

In Bicol, 10,944 families were evacuated to public schools because of typhoon Mina.

In Legazpi City, the DepEd completed the construction of a school building designed to withstand typhoons and earthquakes.

Drinking water monitored

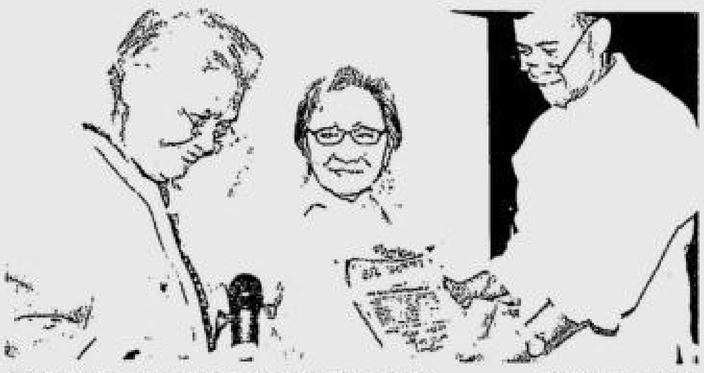
By Kristine L. Alave

THE MARIKINA CITY GOVERNment has partnered with an International Organization for Standardization-certified testing company to check the quality of drinking water in all of its elementary and high school public schools.

Mayor Marides Fernando and Pinky Tobiano, president of Qualibet, the testing company, signed a memorandum of agreement the other day to test water quality in city schools.

According to Fernando, the initiative was part of the city's efforts to provide clean and safe water supply to its students. It would also reduce the exposure of students to water-borne diseases like cholera, amoebiasis, and dysentery.

The pact allows Qualibet to conduct water microanalysis in 26 schools every month and set up five sampling points per school. The tests will run for a year in 26 public elementary and high schools in the city.



EX-PACO PARISH LEADER CITED CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Msgr. Domingo A. Cirilos Jr., of the San Fernando de Dilao parish in Paco, Manila, presents a plaque of appreciation to INQUIRER contributor Gloria Garchitorena-Goloy (center) for her services to the parish. Goloy, a pre-martial law journalist, edited The Parish Sentinel and served as area leader. The citation was read by former Paco parish pastoral council president Pia Cinco (left). The presentation was made at Goloy's recent 80th birthday celebration.

METROBRIEFS

Love story ends badly

IT WAS not the fairy tale love story that he expected. Police yesterday arrested a car wash boy who allegedly stole an undetermined amount of foreign currency from his boss to fund his elopement. According to SPO1 Aron Hardon, Jomar Tigue, 23, was nabbed in an entrapment operation by members of the Police Community Precinct 10 in Ortigas Center around 12:30 a.m. on Thursday. Earlier, his girlfriend, who is a maid in the same household where he worked, tipped their employer Allan Alvarez, a Pasig City businessman, about Tigue's plan, Hardon said. Police added that they recovered a cellular phone from Tigue, allegedly stolen from a co-employee, and Turkish currency. Tigue is detained at the Pasig City police station and is facing robbery and theft charges. *Kristine L. Alave*

Choirs to honor Bonifacio

ON THE occasion of the 144th birth anniversary of working class hero Andres Bonifacio, three major choirs—the Andres Bonifacio Concert Choir (ABCC), the Smokey Mountain Children's Choir, both led by composer Jerry A. Dadap, and the University of Baguio Voices Chorale under Gilbert Allan Dispo—will pay tribute to the hero in a concert at 7:30 tonight at the Philamlife Theater. The concert will feature patriotic and religious hymns, *haranas* (serenades) and love songs.

Louie Fernandez; 60

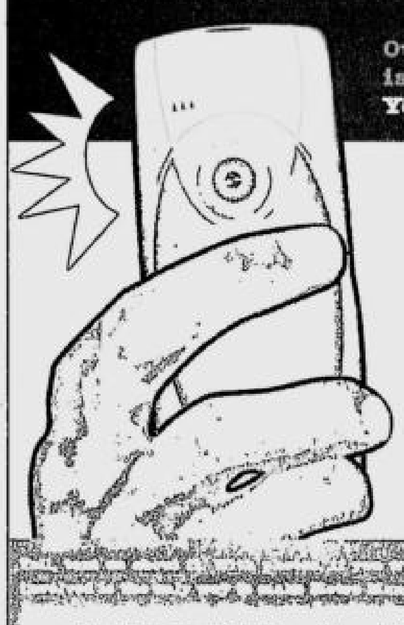
ALOYSIUS Gonzaga ("Louie") A. Fernandez, of Binangonan, Rizal, died of cardiac arrest on Thursday. He was 60 years old. Louie was the eldest son of the late Master Scout Librado Santos Fernandez, who died with the Scout Jamboree team in a plane crash in Bombay, India in 1963, and the late Josefina Angeles. He was an alumnus of Paco Catholic School and the University of the East. He now lies in state at the family residence on 344 Paterno Street, Binangonan, Rizal. Louie is survived by his wife Nancy Villarin, children Luigi, Nini and Aris; grandchild Potpot; siblings Lulu, Chot, Margie, Agnes, Ann and Manny. The date of interment will be announced later.

Lady of Guibang in Manila

ISABELA province natives will bring the pilgrim image of their patroness, Our Lady of Guibang, to the Marian procession on Dec. 2, 4 p.m. in Intramuros, Manila. The procession, organized by the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion in cooperation with the Intramuros Administration, will feature 70 *carrozas* (floats).

METRO

Citizen's Call



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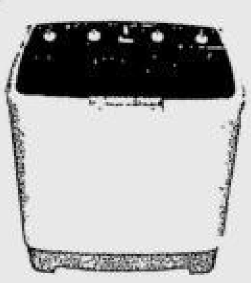

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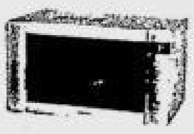

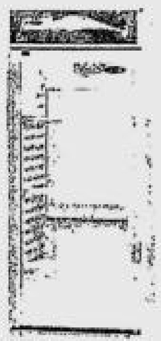

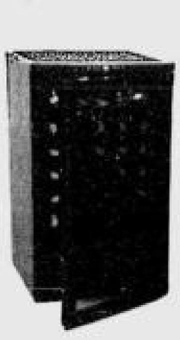

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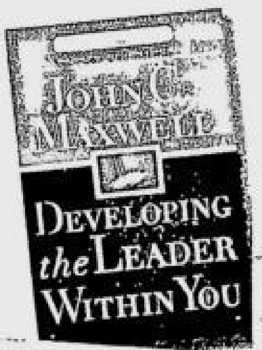

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Number of US immigrants highest since 1920s

IMMIGRATION OVER THE PAST seven years was the highest for any 7-year period in US history, bringing 10.3 million new immigrants, more than half of them without legal status, according to an analysis of census data released Wednesday by the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington.

One in eight people living in the United States is an immigrant, the survey found, for a total of 37.9 million people—the highest level since the 1920s.

The survey was conducted by Steven A. Camarota, director of research at the center, which advocates reduced immigration.

Camarota has been active in the national immigration debate. Independent demographers disputed some of the survey's conclusions, but not Camarota's methods of data analysis.

A large proportion of recent immigrants, both legal and illegal, are low-skilled workers, and about one-third of those have not completed high school, giving them significantly less education than Americans born in the United States, according to the study, which is based on census data as recent as March of this year.

The survey focuses on public costs associated with the new generation of immigrant workers. It does not, however, analyze contributions they make by paying taxes and taking undesirable, low-income jobs—an omission criticized by some immigration scholars.

Still, the survey provides a panorama of the effects of immigration since 2000.

About 30 percent of all immigrants and their children lack health insurance, Camarota reports, compared with 13 percent of native-born Americans. One of every three uninsured people in the country is an immigrant or a young American-born child with at least one immigrant parent, he found. Immigrant families account for almost three-quarters of the increase in the uninsured in the past 15 years, he concludes.

Immigrants are employed at higher rates than Americans, according to the survey. But because of their low educational levels, many work in low-paying, entry-level jobs that do not provide health insurance or other benefits.

Camarota was criticized by some immigration scholars for failing to examine the progress immigrant families make the longer they remain and work in the United States.

"This is a one-eyed portrait," said Dowell Myers, a demographer at the University of Southern California who has studied immigrants' use of public services. "It is a profile of immigrants' dependency without any profile of their contributions." *NYT*

Nato air strikes kill 14 Afghans by mistake

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—NATO is investigating claims that its planes killed 14 members of an Afghan civilian road construction crew while hunting Taliban fighters in a mountainous region.

Nato's International Security Assistance Force said its warplanes conducted airstrikes against Taliban fighters in eastern Nuristan province on Monday night, and that a militant leader was targeted.

"ISAF was engaged in Nurgaram and Du Ab (districts), and in those places we used airstrikes against (Taliban)," ISAF spokesperson Brig. Gen. Carlos Branco told a news conference. "The situation is not clear at all at this stage. We are carrying out the investigation and trying to get a clear picture."

A Pentagon spokesperson in Washington called the operation a "legitimate airstrike," believed to have killed the Taliban commander of Nuristan.

But Afghan officials said bombs hit two tents housing Afghan engineers and laborers contracted by the US military to build a road, killing 14 workers. They blamed faulty intelligence for the mistake.

"All of our poor workers have been killed," said Sayed Noorullah Jalili, director of Amerifa, a Kabul-based road construction company. "I don't think the Americans were targeting our people. I'm sure it's the enemy of the Afghans who gave the Americans this wrong information."

Amerifa received the contract to build 220 km (135 miles) of road for the US military last year, Jalili said.

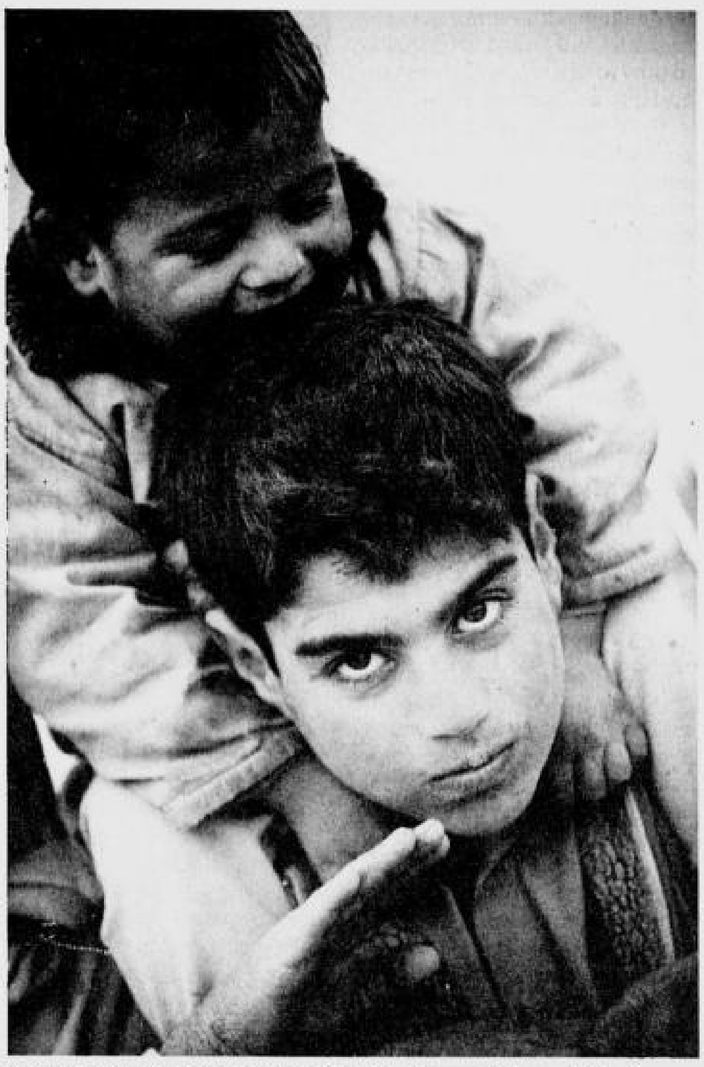
The incident is the first major blunder by foreign troops in months. It follows sharp criticism earlier this year of mass civilian casualties in operations by US and Nato-led troops which have undermined their reputation among Afghan civilians and hurt the government of Western-backed President Hamid Karzai.

Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said Wednesday the military was acting on "credible intelligence from several sources," and that the strike killed a number of insurgents.

"We believe Abdullah Jan, the western Nuristan Taliban commander, may have been killed in the airstrike. We deem it, at this point, to be a legitimate airstrike," Morrell said.

Asked about civilian casualties, Morrell said that "the nearest known construction site to where the target area is, is located more than a kilometer away. What's more, there were no structures, vehicles, or any other construction equipment within the vicinity of the impact area.

"We have no indication at this time that there were anyone other than legitimate targets killed in this operation," Morell said. *AP*



TWO AFGHAN boys play Nov. 28 in the village of Zemmah, in the district of Kalahan, some 20 km north of Kabul. AFP

Bush on 3rd day of talks to promote peace process

WASHINGTON—A DAY AFTER Israeli and Palestinian leaders committed themselves to negotiating a peace treaty, the Bush administration sought Wednesday to give practical and symbolic impetus to their reinvigorated peace process.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice appointed a retired Nato commander, Gen. James L. Jones, to serve as a special envoy overseeing security, an issue that remains at the heart of most of the political differences between the Israelis and Palestinians.

At the White House, President George W. Bush met for the third consecutive day with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel and Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, though in separate meetings.

After the diplomatic wrangling that culminated with Tuesday's meeting at the US Naval Academy, in Annapolis, Md., the meetings on Wednesday focused on bilateral relations and the next steps in the peace process, according to Bush's press secretary, Dana M. Perino, who had previously called the meetings "the after-party."

The three leaders, with their aides, also met for 20 minutes informally in the Oval Office and then appeared in the Rose Garden as Bush offered a short statement that seemed strikingly subdued after the ornate surroundings and emotional appeals of Annapolis the day before.

"Yesterday was an important day, and it was a hopeful beginning," Bush said, bracketed by the two leaders, their hands behind their backs. "No matter how important yesterday was, it's not nearly as important as tomorrow and the days beyond."

Neither Olmert nor Abbas spoke at the White House. *NYT*

Canada urges Japan's apology for sex slaves

OTTAWA—CANADA'S PARLIAMENT formally called on Japan on Wednesday to apologize for forcing more than 200,000 women to work as sex slaves for its soldiers both before and during World War II.

Junior government minister Jason Kenney referred to "an unthinkable evil that happened some 60 years ago," words which prompted loud applause in Parliament.

"We need to learn from the lessons of history ... (and) redouble our efforts in fighting similar kinds of violence against women, against children," he said in a clear reference to mass killings in Sudan's Darfur region.

Legislators unanimously backed a nonbinding motion urging Tokyo to offer a full, formal apology to the women, and condemning what it said were recent attempts by Japanese officials to play down what had happened.

The US House of Representatives adopted a similar motion on the sex slaves—known euphemistically in Japan as "comfort women"—in late July.

In 1993, Japan acknowledged a state role in the wartime program and apologized to the victims, who were mostly Korean and Chinese women.

Earlier this year, then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe caused an uproar when he denied there was proof Japan's government or military had been involved procuring the women. *Reuters*

SHADES OF DEMI

In this image released by Marie Claire, singer Christina Aguilera is shown on the cover of the January 2008 issue of Marie Claire magazine. Aguilera is downright giggly as she opens up for the first time about her baby boy, her marriage, and her future in the "Sexy Mama" cover article featured in the January 2008 issue.

AP

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UN: Malaysia becoming one of world's top polluters

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—Carbon emissions in Malaysia have increased by 221 percent since 1990, the highest growth rate among the world's top polluters, the United Nations said Thursday, as it urged the government to control climate-changing gases more vigorously.

Malaysia, which has rapidly transformed from an agricultural economy to an industrialized one in the last four decades, is now ranked the 26th largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, said Richard Leete, the regional representative for the United Nations Development Program.

"Clearly there is a case for the government to consider a new policy on climate change issues," Leete said at the Malaysian launch of the UNDP's annual report on the state of the world. The report was first released in Brazil earlier this week.

"Malaysia has made a positive start in reducing its carbon footprint ... but Malaysia must do more," he said.

The United Nations Development Report said carbon dioxide emissions increased by 221 percent from 1990 to 2004 in Malaysia, the highest growth rate among the world's top 30 carbon dioxide emitters.

"It's something that we have to look at ... we have to do some analysis," Noor Azlan Ghazali, the government's representative at the launch, told reporters.

With 0.4 percent of the world's population, Malaysia's 27 million people accounted for 0.6 percent of global emissions.

Noor Azlan, who is the director of the Malaysian Development Institute, said the government needs to strengthen its efforts but could not say if there were any concrete measures planned. *AP*

No relations with Colombia as long as Uribe is president, says Chavez

CARACAS—A RAGING ROW between Venezuela and Colombia intensified Wednesday when Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said he would have no relations with the neighboring country "as long as (Alvaro) Uribe is president."

"As long as Uribe is president, a president that is capable of brazenly lying, of showing disrespect for other presidents ... I will not have any sort of relations with him or with with the government of Colombia," Chavez told a group of supporters in the western town of Tachira, near the Colombian border.

It was not immediately clear whether Chavez was speaking personally, or on behalf of his government.

The Venezuelan leader already said last Sunday that he was putting diplomatic ties with Colombia "in a freezer," and has recalled his ambassador to Bogota for consultations after Uribe last week abruptly axed him as a mediator in negotiations to have leftist Colombian rebels free 45 hostages.

The Venezuelan government has said it is proceeding "with an exhaustive evaluation of bilateral relations," without elaborating.

Chavez also said Wednesday his mediation efforts with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) had been suspended just as they were bearing fruit.

The Colombian president withdrew his support for the Venezuelan leader's mediation efforts with the FARC after Chavez ignored his demand not to speak directly with Colombian generals about the hostages. *AFP*

Iran cracks down on 'obscene' rap music

TEHRAN—IRAN ON THURSDAY said that it planned to launch a crackdown on rap music, complaining that the words used by rap artists were "obscene", the state IRNA news agency reported.

"There is nothing wrong with this type of music in itself," the official for evaluation of music at the Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry, Mohammad Dashtgoli, was quoted as saying.

"But due to the use of obscene words by its singers this music has been categorised as illegal," he said.

"In coordination with the police, illegal studios producing this type of music will be sealed and the singers in this genre will be confronted," he said.

Dashtgoli said a large number of illegal rap singers have been already identified.

The Islamic republic's hardline officials have repeatedly complained about a "cultural invasion" by "decadent" western music which they believe diminishes Islamic values.

Rap music has become increasingly popular amongt young urban males in Tehran, with explicit lyrics taking in social, political and sexual themes. *AFP*

ADB: Asian developing nations to face water crisis soon

SINGAPORE—DEVELOPING Asian countries will face an unprecedented water crisis in as little as a decade if they are unable to better manage their supplies of the precious resource, a team of water experts reported Thursday.

A study commissioned by the Manila-based Asian Development Bank said policymakers in many developing nations have so far paid insufficient attention to the way. they supply water, manage wastewater and fight water pollution.

"If the present unsatisfactory trends continue, in one or two decades, Asian developing countries are likely to face a crisis on water quality management that is unprecedented in human history," wrote Prof. Asit K. Biswas, who led the international group of water specialists in preparing the report released in Singapore.

One contributing factor to wastewater management problems is massive and rapid urbanization, such as that seen in megacities like Dhaka, Bangladesh; Jakarta, Indonesia; and Karachi, Pakistan, the report said.

Wastewater collected from cities is often discharged to nearby rivers, lakes or oceans with little or no treatment, which heavily contaminates water bodies around urban centers and is already causing health and environmental problems.

"By diluting seriously the definition of access to clean water and considering sanitation only in a very restricted sense, developing countries, including many in Asia, are mortgaging their future in terms of water security," wrote Biswas, who heads the Mexico City-based Third World Centre for Water Management.

The report said governments should step up efforts to build new wastewater treatment facilities on a massive scale to reduce contamination. It recommended a target of quadrupling access to wastewater treatment facilities to 50 or 60 percent of the population of Asian developing countries.

"This will not be an easy task, and yet this must be the real target for Asian countries," Biswas said.

"Water quality management has mostly been a neglected issue in Asian (developing member countries)," he wrote, adding that the problem likely costs the region's economies billions of dollars annually.

The report noted, however, that progress in urban water management was being made in some parts of Asia, such as China, which has some of the world's most polluted waterways and cities after two decades of breakneck industrial growth but is making efforts to reduce the contamination.

Official awareness of the importance of providing clean drinking water and proper wastewater management services is increasing to the point that the issues have become priorities for policymakers on many levels, it said.

For example, the government is constructing a massive network of canals to supply its dry north with water from the wetter south. In the southern industrial city of Shenzhen, officials have introduced measures to conserve freshwater by flushing toilets with seawater.

The report also urged officials to study "success stories" such as Singapore, which despite a lack of internal water resources, has harnessed technologies in recycling water and desalination to provide continuous, high quality drinking water to its dense, urban population. *AP*

Musharraf starts new term as civilian leader

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN'S PERVEZ MUSHARRAF was sworn in as president for a second term Thursday, this time as a civilian, and defiantly rejected massive international pressure to lift his state of emergency.

Musharraf, who took power in a bloodless coup in 1999, took the oath for another five years in office from the country's newly installed Chief Justice Abdul Hameed Dogar at the presidential palace in Islamabad.

It came a day after he stepped down as head of the powerful army under fierce pressure at home and abroad to end eight years of turbulent military rule ahead of elections set for Jan. 8.

"This is a milestone in the transition of Pakistan to a complete essence of democracy," Musharraf, 64, said in a speech after a solemn ceremony broadcast live on state television.

Musharraf vowed that the general elections will take place "come hell or high water," despite threats of a boycott by former Premiers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif.

But he brushed aside fresh calls by US President George W. Bush and other Western allies to lift the state of emergency he imposed on Nov. 3.

"We want democracy, we want human rights, we want civil liberties, but we will do it our way," Musharraf said, dismissing what he call an "unrealistic obsession" with Western-style democracy.

"We understand our society, our environment, better than anyone in the West."

Wearing a traditional black tunic, Musharraf recited the oath in front of hundreds of dignitaries including his handpicked heir as army chief, General Ashfaq Kiyani, who looked on impassively.

The swearing-in came hours after Bush and his chief diplomat Condoleezza Rice welcomed Musharraf's resignation from the army but urged him to lift emergency rule to pave the way for free and fair elections.

"In my judgment, in order to get Pakistan back on the road to democracy, he's got to suspend the emergency law before elections," Bush told CNN television in an interview.

But Bush praised Musharraf as "an absolute reliable partner in dealing with extremists and radicals" and hailed his decision to bow to international pressure and quit as army chief.

"It is something that a lot of people doubted would ever happen. And he told me he would take off his uniform, and I appreciate that, that he kept his word," said the US president.

The United States has led international calls for Musharraf to end the state of emergency, which Washington sees as a hindrance to the pursuit of al-Qaida and Taliban militants by Pakistan, its key ally in the "war on terror."

Musharraf imposed the measure citing militancy and a hostile judiciary, but critics charge he did so to rid the Supreme Court of hostile judges amid fears they would rule that his victory in an Oct. 6 election was illegal.

Musharraf was set to address the nation on Thursday at 8 p.m. Officials played down speculation he would lift the state of emergency during the speech. *AFP*

PAKISTANI President Pervez Musharraf (center) and Chief Justice Abdul Hameed Dogar sign the documents during the presidential swearing-in ceremony at the presidential palace in Islamabad, Nov. 29. AFP

Worries over nuclear weapons in Mideast date back to the 1960s

WASHINGTON—IN JULY 1969, as the world was spellbound by the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, President Richard M. Nixon and his close advisers were quietly fretting about a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

Their main worry was not a potential enemy of the United States but one of America's closest friends.

"The Israelis, who are one of the few peoples whose survival is genuinely threatened, are probably more likely than almost any other country to actually use their nuclear weapons," Henry A. Kissinger, the national security adviser, warned Nixon in a memorandum dated July 19, 1969—part of a newly released trove of documents.

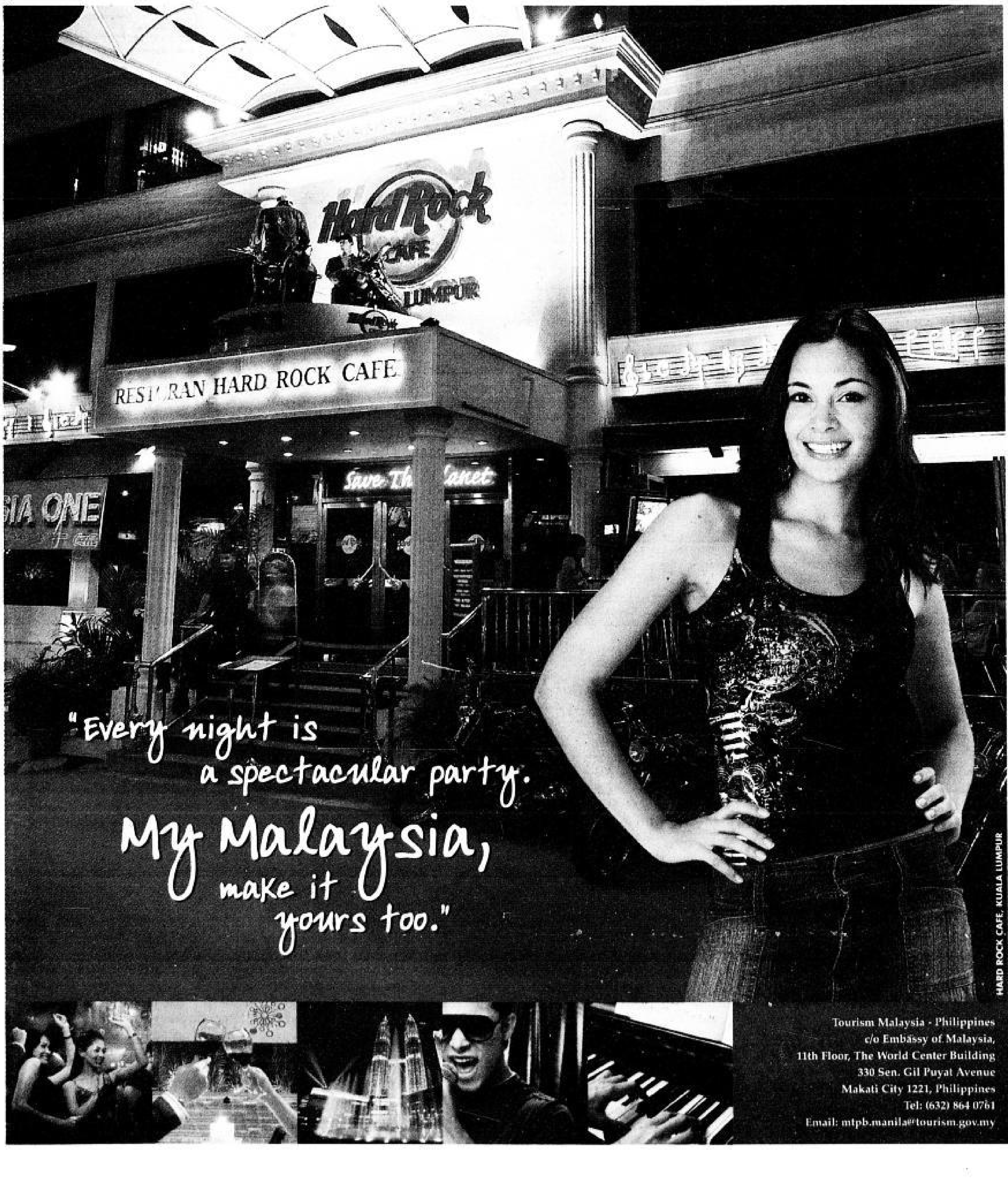
Israel's nuclear arms program, which Israel has never officially conceded exists, was believed to have begun at least several years before, but it was causing special problems for the young Nixon administration. For one thing, the president was preparing for a visit by its prime minister, Golda Meir, who was also in her first year in office and whose toughness was already legendary.

The Nixon White House's concerns over Israel's weapons were detailed in documents from the Nixon Presidential Library that were released Wednesday by the National Archives under an executive order that requires that classified documents be reviewed and possibly declassified after 25 years. The documents provide insights into America's close, but by no means problem-free, relationship with Israel. They also serve as a reminder that concerns over nuclear arms proliferation in the Middle East, currently focused on Iran, are decades-old.

There are also snippets about Washington's desire to manipulate relations with Saudi Arabia, so that the Saudis might help to broker a peace deal in the Mideast and discussion of possibly supporting a Kurdish uprising in Iraq.

But perhaps the most interesting material, and the most pertinent given the just-completed Mideast peace conference in Annapolis, concerns Israel and its relations with its neighbors, as well as with the United States.

"This is one program on which the Israelis have persistently deceived us," Kissinger said, "and may even have stolen from us." *NYT*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Tac Padilla barely misses medal

By Musong R. Castillo

BANGKOK, THAILAND—EVEN WITH THE way it ended, Philippine officials swore it was still a prelude to something big.

Day 3 of shooting action in the 24th Southeast Asian Games here ended in disaster for Team Philippines on Thursday, with Susan Aguado again faring miserably and Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla landing just one point shy of the shoot-off for the 25-meter standard pistol bronze medal.

24th SEA GAMES
6 • 15 DECEMBER 2007
NAKHON RATCHASIMA
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Aguado finished 11th out of 16 entries in the 10m air pistol for women after totaling just 362 points, 19 behind the winning 381 tally of Thai Tanyaporn Prucksakorn at the Thailand Target and Clay shooting ranges.

The 46-year-old Aguado, a policewoman of 22 years detailed at Camp Crame, shot a decent 92 in her first string before floundering in her next two with 89s to crash out of contention. She had a 94 in her final 10 shots.

Padilla, the rapid-fire expert and four-time gold medalist, provided the excitement for the small shooting delegation.

The 43-year-old businessman, who also owns a commercial basketball team back home, almost came back from a cold start, needing a perfect final five shots to earn a shot at the bronze for the Philippines' third medal.

But Padilla, who first won a gold in the 1979 Games as a 15-year-old, tallied 49 points in his final 10-second series and totaled 553. He missed tying Vietnam's Xuan Vinh Hoang and Pruet Sriyapan of Thailand for a shoot-off.

The Vietnamese eventually bagged third place after shooting 46. The Thai had 44.

"I was really not expecting anything here," the mild mannered Padilla said. "This is not really my event. But I've done better (in the past). It (event) just rids me of some of the pressure going into tomorrow (Friday)."

The skeet team, which won the individual and team golds in Manila two years ago, will plunge into action on Saturday.

The trap team of Jethro Dionisio, Carlos Carag and Eric Ang won the silver behind Sin-

TAC/ A30

MARC ANTHONY REYES

TONI Rivero, aching and all, loosens up with help from sports therapist Nick Sagayno.

Rivero nails 2nd Olympic slot for jins with silver

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HO CHI MINH CITY—MARY ANTOINETTE Rivero gallantly made her way back to the Olympics Thursday night and then abandoned the gold medal fight to conserve her strength for the Southeast Asian Games next week in Thailand.

Rivero first demolished Nepalese Manita Sahi, 3-0, in the first round of the female -67kg division before crushing Iranian Soheila Sayahi, 6-2, to reach the finals of the Asian qualifying and clinch a berth to the 2008 Beijing Games.

But the two victories exacted a heavy toll on Rivero, forcing the RP coaching staff to throw in the towel in the first round of her final match against Nurkina Liya of Kazakhstan.

"I can't move my legs anymore," said the 19-year-old Rivero, who called for pain-numbing spray several times during her semifinal match against the feisty Iranian.

She lay face down while being attended to by Filipino sports therapist Nick Sagayno all through the waiting time before the finals.

The plan was to let her fight and wait for the Kazakh's camp to waive the gold medal off like what many countries do when the Olympic slot has been secured. Liya was still full of fight, however.

"The Kazakh was still fresh and raring to win the gold, we couldn't afford to gamble on that," said women's coach Rocky Samson.

"We want to reserve her for the Southeast Asian Games," added men's coach Kitoy Cruz.

Rivero, a rookie in the Athens Games in 2004, joined early Olympic qualifier and Greece teammate Tshomlee Go, who clinched his slot in the world qualifying in Manchester, England, recently.

"I'm so proud of Toni's performance. She was so focused and determined to land a Beijing Olympics slot," said Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aventajado.

Alexander Briones (male -80kg) and Kirstie Elaine Alora (female -57kg) plunge into action Friday and will try to make it a three-for-three stint here for the team backed by Smart/PLDT, Petron and the Philippine Sports Commission.

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Payback: Meza confident of hurdling Boom Boom

THE PROTAGONISTS in the "Payback" card, "Boom Boom" Bautista (second from left) and Mexican Antonio Mezza, show the title belt they will dispute on Sunday. With them are (from left) promoter Noli Eala, ring announcer Amy Hayes and WBO representative Leon Panoncillo. RYAN LIM

By Roy Luarca

MEXICAN TOUGHIE ANTONIO "BARRIO" Meza is certain of winning against Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista when they tangle Sunday morning at the Araneta Coliseum.

He just can't say whether it would be by knockout or decision.

"I came here to win," said Meza, through his interpreter and manager Fernando Dominguez, during yesterday's press conference of the "Payback" card at the Philippine International Convention Center.

"I prepare hard every time I fight. I will win this fight either by knockout or decision."

Refuting reports that he has fought nondescript fighters in compiling a 23-win, 2-loss record, Meza said he is set to conquer the world and to equal, if not surpass, the stature of countryman Juan Manuel Marquez.

'Juan Manuel Marquez is now our superstar because Manny Pacquiao beat all great Mexican fighters," said Meza, who served as a sparring partner for seven weeks of compatriot Luis Maldonado, who will challenge Filipino IBF flyweight champion Nonito Donaire Jr. also this Sunday.

"Boom Boom is one of the great fighters. "We respect him but once I meet him, he will feel the pain of my punches."

But Bautista, who will stake his WBO intercontinental super bantamweight title in the 12-round showdown, was quick to brush off Meza's breast-beating.

"If he's prepared, I prepared even harder," said Bautista in Filipino. "The people will see a different Boom Boom on Sunday."

Bautista has learned from his first-round knockout defeat by David Ponce De Leon early this year.

Other featured bouts pit teen sensation AJ "Bazooka" Banal against Mexican Jovanny "Bambino" Soto, RP bantamweight champion Michael Domingo versus Tanzanian Anthony Matias and regional minimumweight titlist Milan Melindo against Indonesian Jack Amisa.

Third Force Promotions president Noli Eala guarantees fight fans a first-rate card.

"We're out to show that the Philippines can be the destination of future world championship fights," said Eala.

Fans at the Araneta Coliseum will also be able to see the international feed of the first title defense of Donaire against Maldonado through a giant TV screen inside the venue. ABC-5 will broadcast the fight at 10 a.m.

Also present during the press conference were female ring announcer Amy Hayes, Bautista's manager Michael Aldeguer and chief Filipino trainer Edito Villamor.

A press preview is set today at Market! Market! in Taguig City. The official weigh-in is set tomorrow at the Gateway Mall at Araneta.

NBN-4 crew sets record for travel

By Musong R. Castillo

BANGKOK—CALL THEM WELL-TRAVELED.

A three-man television crew, the first batch of 30 or so who will cover the 24th Southeast Asian Games for NBN-4, has spent the last five days here riding a rented car for at least six hours a day.

Alberto Marbella, Gilbert Guifaya and Arturo Pegarido hit the road for at 7 each morning for three hours and another three in the afternoon to get from Nakhon Ratchasima province to here, where shooting competitions started on Tuesday.

They will reimburse travel expenses of 2,700 baht (about P4,800) for gasoline and $50 (about P2,150) for the car and driver a day when they get back home.

* * *

THIS alternate was almost the one who needed to be replaced.

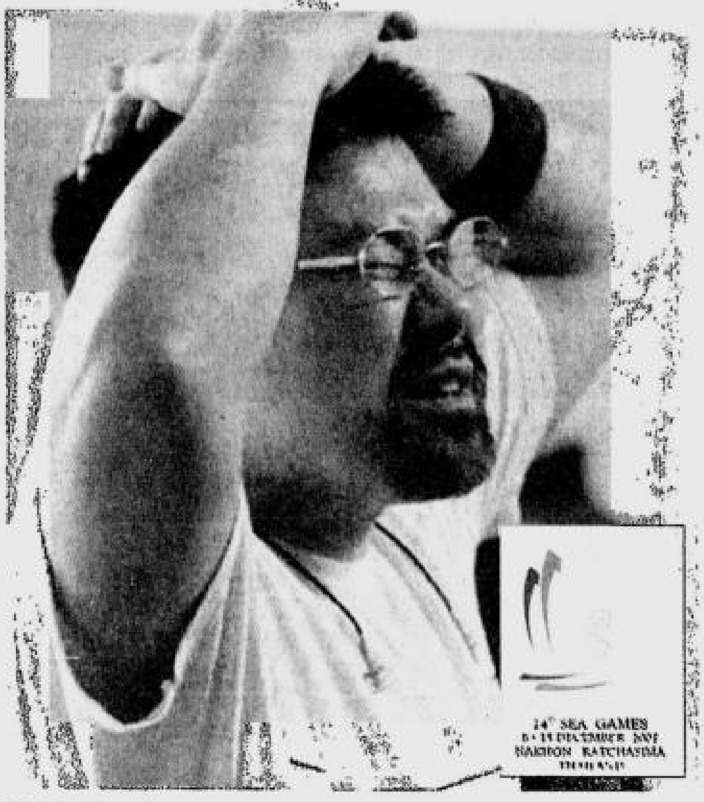
Ashley Escalante, a member of the RP sailing team, was rushed to the Sirikit General Hospital on Tuesday night because of symptoms of dengue. Escalante suffered from rashes, swollen fingers and toes and high fever that coach Medy Fidel had to bring her to the hospital.

But Escalante recovered well enough that she was back training on Thursday.

* * *

SAILING action begins in Pattaya, a scenic tourist destination about 120 km from Bangkok on Dec.. 6.

Fidel said that they already picked the boats that they will use for the event, all of them provided by the organizers.



TAC Padilla reacts after completing the first 10 shots in standard pistol.

Garcia tells Go: Don't complain

By Musong R. Castillo

BANGKOK, THAILAND—WHEN IS enough really enough?

Richie Garcia, the first PSC commissioner to arrive here for the 24th Southeast Asian Games, is asking this question after learning Thursday that athletics chief Go Teng Kok was up in arms again over supplies.

"We gave them P11 million for the year already, what more does he (Go) want," Garcia said. "No NSA (national sports association) has gotten funding as much as they (athletics) did."

Garcia was reacting to a published report in which Go was quoted as saying that his athletes have yet to receive their shoes.

"If he (Go) wants to blow this up, then we blow it up," Garcia said. "The problem with Mr. Go is that he wants to be able to literally handle the funds being sent to the Patafa. And we don't want that."

Garcia pointed out that the national athletes under Go receive their PSC assistance personally since Patafa has outstanding unliquidated funds. This, he added, prevents the government sports agency from giving the assistance directly to Go as Patafa head.

"We also blacklisted the supplier that he has been using for so many years now," Garcia added. "That's one of the reasons why he is upset. The prices that his supplier give us are simply too exorbitant for us to consider."

Athletics will be staged from Dec. 7-11 and no less than 45 gold medals will be staked in the event.

Tac Padilla barely misses medal

From page A29

gapore on Wednesday. Reed-thin Emerito Concepcion nailed the only other RP medal, a bronze, in the 10m air rifle.

Prucksakorn started out with a 93 but pieced together three straight 96s to anchor a fiery Thai 1-2 finish in the event as Warinya Butcha finished second with a 379 tally.

Vietnam's Thu Van Nguyen took the bronze with a 376 total.

It was a Thai 1-3 in the standard pistol with Prakam Karndee leading from start to finish for 563 and the gold, the hosts' fourth. She beat Lip Meng Poh of Singapore by four points.

Padilla will carry the fight for the RP Team Friday in the rapid fire, his pet event where, in 1979, he made Thailand's future police chief pass out due to frustration after he snatched the gold.

Padilla's 89 points came in two 150-second series that put him in 15th place out of 16 shooters after the first 10 shots broken down in two sessions.

His rally started in the first 20-second series, where he fired a 49 to climb to eight spot. He then had a 46 for sixth and stayed there until the final series.

"I just felt too relaxed that I got to the point that I wasn't squeezing the trigger anymore," Padilla said. "It is just too bad that I came up short."

Lost in Padilla's courageous effort were Carolino Concepcion and Robert Donalvo, who fired 522 and 523, respectively, to end up in the bottom rung of the standings.

But shooting federation sec gen Donald Padilla remained optimistic of his squad's chances of duplicating—and even surpassing—their 3-3-2 gold-silver-bronze haul in Manila in 2005.

"The events where we are strong are still coming up," Donald said. "It's not yet the end of the line."

Rocky Padilla, Edwin Fernandez and Eddie Torres will also see action in the 50-m rifle prone Friday.

P'foods tries to boost stock vs Magnolia

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	9	1
Red Bull	6	3
Alaska	6	4
Magnolia	5	4
Talk 'N Text	5	5
Air21	4	4
Sta. Lucia	4	5
Ginebra	4	6
Welcoat	3	7
Coca-Cola	1	8

GAMES TODAY
(*Ynares Center*)
4:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs Air21
7:20 p.m.—Purefoods vs Magnolia

PUREFOODS TRIES TO STAY ON ATTACK mode when the TJ Giants collide with the talent-laden Magnolia Beverage Masters today in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

"I expect them (Beverage Masters) to go all out after a loss," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio, referring to Magnolia's 95-107 defeat to Red Bull on Friday last week.

The TJ Giants are coming off a controversial 87-86 win over the Alaska Aces last weekend that shoved them firmly on top of the standings with a 9-1 record.

"We will continue to play tough and be the best that we can be," Gregorio, the two-time coach of the year, said.

The league upheld the Giants' win after throwing away the protest lodged by the Aces, who complained that two non-calls in the dying seconds could have turned the tide in favor of Alaska in the dying seconds.

The Giants are gunning for a third consecutive triumph at 7:20 p.m. against the Beverage Masters, who are in the middle of the pack at 5-4.

Red Bull tangles with Air21 in the first game at 4:35 p.m. hoping to improve their second-running card to 7-3.

Though left with a roster deprived of talent, the Bulls have been maximizing their resources, even dealing the Giants their first setback of the conference.

Coach Yeng Guiao and the Bulls also subdued the Air21 Express in the first round and remain a sentimental favorite to duplicate the trick.

Magnolia acquired Enrico Villanueva, Lordy Tugade and Larry Fonacier from Red Bull to boost a lineup already boasting of Danny Seigle, Dondon Hontiveros, Danny Ildefonso, Olsen Racela and LA Tenorio.

The Beverage Masters, however, have yet to play as a powerhouse team. They lost two of their last three games.

"They (Beverage Masters) have an awesome roster," said Gregorio. "It's going to be a great challenge against a powerhouse squad." *June Navarro*

Tigresses, Lady Stags start title series today

By Romina S. Austria

THEIR GOALS WERE CLEAR AT THE START of the conference.

University of Santo Tomas wants a back-to-back championship to boost its morale in the UAAP, where it is the defending champion.

San Sebastian College wants to finally get rid of its bridesmaid tag after finishing runner-up in the last two conferences. The NCAA "three-peat" winners want to prove they can win outside their territory.

Whoever gets to complete its mission will be known starting today when the Tigresses and the Lady Stags start their best-of-three title series in the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

The all-Filipino Tigresses swept the Jaroensri Bualee-powered Lady Stags in the first conference finals. In this conference, they split their previous two meetings.

"It will be hard to contain Bualee," UST guest player Suzanne Roces said of the Thai. "But we proved we can do it."

MARY Jean Balse (front) is expected to power the UST again with Suzane Roces. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson (Game 1, for 3rd place)
4 p.m.—San Sebastian vs UST (Game 1, Championship)

Coach Augusto Santamaria said they need to have good defense, receive well and "keep the intensity we displayed against Ateneo," referring to their four-set playoff win over the Lady Eagles last Tuesday.

SSC coach Roger Gorayeb is satisfied with the form of his wards who won all their four semifinal matches to top the league at 10-1.

"There are things we need to improve on but overall, we are playing well," he said.

Deblois, Romano top PSA kegfest; PDI bets in top 3

ABANTE SPORTS EDITOR TITO Deblois and Virgi Romano, acting sports editor of Abante Tonite, topped the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) Bowling Cup yesterday at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal.

Deblois rolled a three-game series of 461 to nip Bandera editor Fred Nasiad and Roy Luarca of the INQUIRER for the men's division championship.

Nasiad scored 415 and Luarca 402. Another PDI kegler, Francis Ochoa, finished fifth.

Romano scored 329, besting Jasmine Payo of the INQUIRER and Kristel Satumbaga of the Manila Bulletin in the distaff side.

Payo, who is also the UAAP Press Corps president, rolled 264 while Satumbaga had 256.

The event is part of the road show for "My Olympic Dream," a fund-raising project of the PSA and Brickroad Gym and Aspen Spas. The program is held in cooperation with Wendy's Hamburgers, Cabalen Restaurant, Informatics-Cainta, Uber Salon, Expressmiles Travels and Tours, Accel, Brickroad Venture and King Fox Security Agency.

Major broadsheets and tabloids were well represented in the tournament. DZSR Sports Radio 918 also sent a small contingent.

My Olympic Dream aims to raise P2 million to help defray Filipino Olympians' dietary needs for the Beijing Olympics next year.

"What started as a fun tournament took a serious face when the players gunned for as many strikes as they could," said Kristine Mae Robles, GM of Brickroad Gym and Aspen Spas and the woman behind My Olympic Dream.

"Everything was close from the start and the new players were giving their best to win," said Willie Ortiz, president of Accel, one of the sponsors of the event.

The PSA-Brickroad sports road show will feature billiards and golf tournaments.

SPORTSWATCH

PBA commish known soon

WITH THE SHORT LIST OF CANDIDATES pruned down to four, the Philippine Basketball Association has decided to pick the new commissioner on Dec. 17.

The five-man selection panel, led by PBA chair Tony Chua, will choose from among lawyer Chito Salud, son of former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud; SBP executive director Patrick Gregorio, former national coach Vincent "Chot" Reyes; and Nextel executive Lambert Ramos. *June Navarro*

Pasay 4-cocker gets going

THE CLASHES AMONG METRO MANILA'S big-time cockers shift to Pasay City Cockpit today via the special 4-cock derby with some 75 fights and with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Host Baldo Perez of Batangas, who is backed by pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano, is staking a guaranteed prize of P300,000.

80 tiffs in fiesta derby today

SOME 80 FIGHTS ARE ON TAP IN THE Annual Cainta Town Fiesta 4-cock derby which unfolds at 5 p.m. today at Cainta Coliseum. Derby hosts Vice Mayor Atoy Sicat and Ito Ynares said part of event's proceeds will be donated to a charitable institution. The winners will receive a cash prize of P300,000.

RACING TIPS
BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Balabushka (3), Angel's Star (5), Fox Trot (4), Truly Inspired (1)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Detective Daryll (6), Kapit Banay (5), Miracle Music (2), Top Quest (3)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Redline Limit (8), Queen (5), Madera (4), Areglado (7), Emperadora (3)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Play It Again (6), Kawiliwil (5), Queen Josephine (2), Queen of Gala (4)
Race 5—(Tri)—Pivotal (4), Head Turner (2), Best In Field (1)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—D As In Dixie (4), Laica N'Raven (6), Golden Rhythm (1), Sanry Forex (2)
Race 7—(Tri)—Santiago (1), Ray Moon Star (2), Honest To Goodness (3)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Gemstone (4), Striking Thunder (5), High Pocket (3), Stingray (1)
Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Spanish Ruler (9), Jewel On Ice (8), Royal Fleet (2), Flame of The Wind (6), Jade of Joy (5)
Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—Money Bank (3), Kang Kang (4), Visionary (5), You Go It all/Rose N Fire (2)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Friendly Fire (7), Good Humour (3), Western Champ (8), Jade Express (5)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Hok Kee Hok (6), Quick Play (5), My Special Moment (2), Easy Lover (1)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Cool Reception (6), Lord Brian (5), Friendly Venture (2), Ocean Cookie (11), Queen's Abbey (8) Deep Rising (9)

Filipinos' best round fails to threaten Thais

By Roy Luarca

JAY Bayron drops 3 shots in last 3 holes.

THE PHILIPPINES' best effort hardly made a dent yesterday as Thailand all but locked up the individual and team championships in the 2007 Putra Cup at The Country Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Jay Bayron turned in a one-over-par 71, Jhonnel Ababa a 72 and Ferdie Aunzo a 73 as the Filipinos pooled a third-round 216 and climbed to a share of second place with the defending champion Singaporeans, who struggled with a 223, at 656.

The Thais, however, appeared beyond recall as they matched the Filipinos' output behind Kiradech Aphibamrat's 70, Varut Chomchalam's 72 and Varan Israbhakdi's 74 and maintained their huge 13-stroke advantage going into the final 18 holes.

Flaunting their dominance in what is also known as the Southeast Asian Amateur Golf Team Championship, the Thais also grabbed the top three spots in the individual race with Aphibamrat notching a 211 for a five-shot lead over Israbhakdi, who had a 216.

Chomchalam, who had a 69 in the first round, was a shot off at 217 while Bayron rose to a tie for fourth with Singaporean Quincy Quek, who carded a 74, at 218.

With the way they are playing, the Thais are expected to cruise to their 12th team title and their 10th sweep since 1985. Wisut Artjanawat spearheaded Thailand's last victory double in 2004.

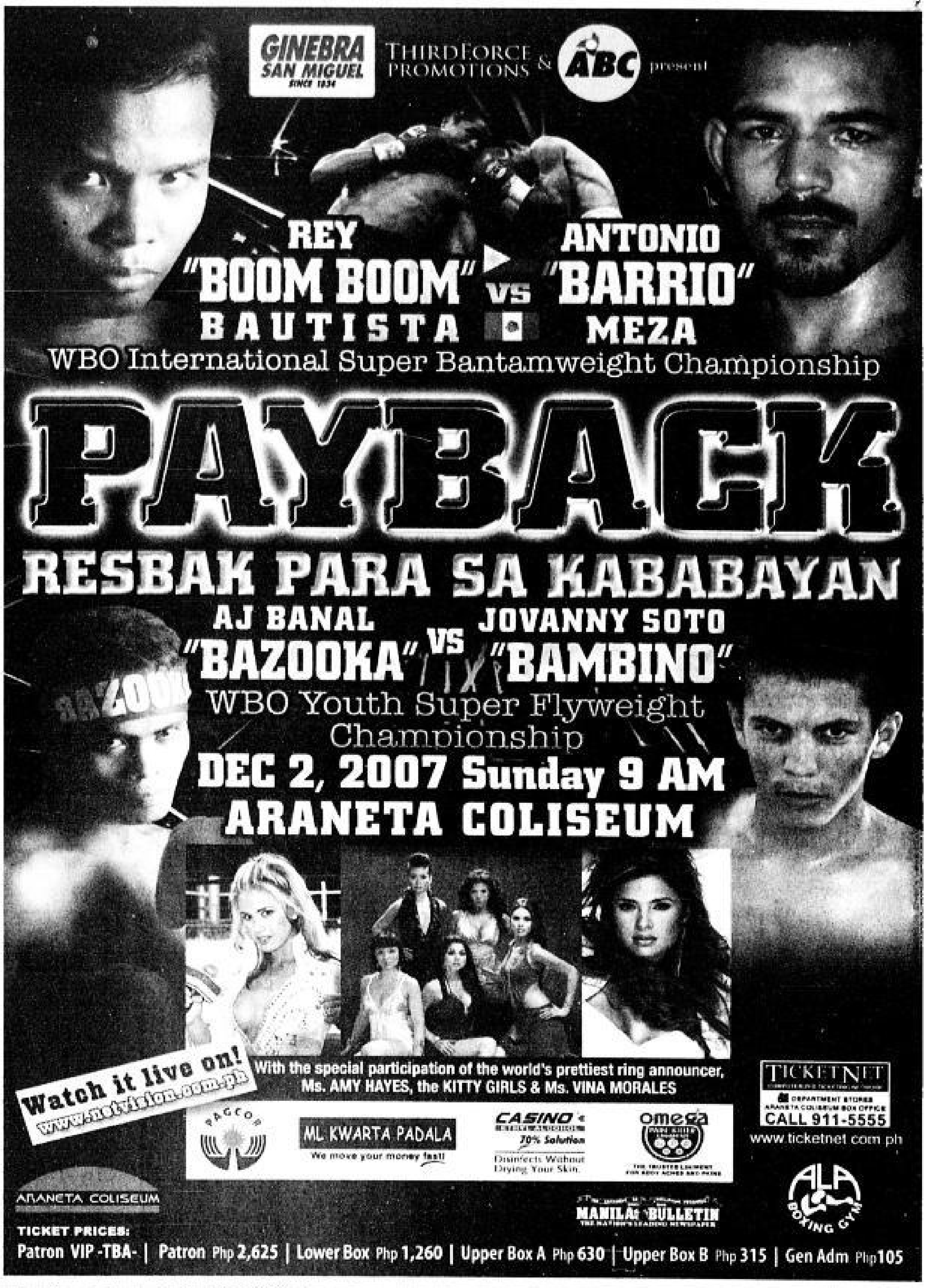
Two-under after 15 holes, Bayron drove out of bounds on the par-4 16th en route to a double bogey before dropping another shot after missing the green on the 17th for that 71.

Ababa, who signed for a par instead of a birdie in his scorecard in the second round, opened up with a birdie before going through a seesaw round of four more birdies against seven bogeys for nines of 37-35.

Aunzo also started with a birdie but could only gun down one more the rest of the way while taking five bogeys.

Team scores (after 54 holes):

643—Thailand 212-215-216; 656—**Philippines** 222-218-216; Singapore 217-216-223; 662—Indonesia 221-221-220; 669—Malaysia 222-218-229; 681—Hong Kong 217-231-233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GOLDEN BOYS: Bing Bunye, team manager Freddie Mendoza, Bong Sison, skipper Eugene Arriesgado, Iggy Clavecilla and Florene delos Santos (from left) celebrate Golden Oats' victory.

Golden Oats seize Fil-Am Seniors title

BAGUIO CITY—GOLDEN OATS staved off a last-day charge by host Camp John Hay Golf Club I yesterday to clinch its fourth straight victory in the seniors Fil Championship flight of the 58th Fil-Am Invitational Golf tournament at the CJH golf course.

Paced by national seniors champion Iggy Clavecilla, who easily topped individual play, Golden Oats gave up only a point to its chief rival, 124-125, in the final round and won the centerpiece division by three, 357-354.

Clavecilla came up with 34 points on a two-over-par 71, Eduardo Sison made 32, Bing Bunye chipped in 30 and Florene delos Santos had 28 for Golden Oats.

"We never doubted our players," said Golden Oats Plus nonplaying team captain Eugene Arriesgado and manager Freddie Mendoza. "We kept reminding them to just play their games and forget about the scores of John Hay."

Fred Puckett fired a 70 for 35 points to pace John Hay, which also drew 30 points from retired generals Nelson Eslao and Clyde Cabreros and club champion Korean Park Jong-won.

Puckett settled for second to Clavecilla's 117 in individual play.

Tournament-best 39

King Sumulong fired a tournament-best 66 for 39 points as Eastridge closed out with 116 points for third place with 304.

Meanwhile, Korean Cha Moon Kyu amassed 28 points to lead Camp John Hay GC I to the Am Championship crown at the Baguio Country Club course.

Bill Lawrence contributed 27 points, Ho Kwon Kim made 22 and Bong Mandapat had a 23 as the co-host team wound up with 303, 11 ahead of Nueva Ecija GC which finished with 98 and a 292 aggregate.

Mandapat ruled the Am individual play with a total of 81.

Marcelo Alfonso led Nueva Ecija with 29 points, Ceasar Castro scored 25 and Peregrine de Guzman and ex-governor Gov. Tommy Joson made 22.

Camp Aguinaldo rules

Camp Aguinaldo bucked a searing rally by Capitol Hills to win the Am A title by five points, 270-265, in the tournament sponsored by Mazda Philippines, Club Car, Wilson Sports, Royal Caribbean International, Eva Airways, El Nido Resorts and MyPhone..

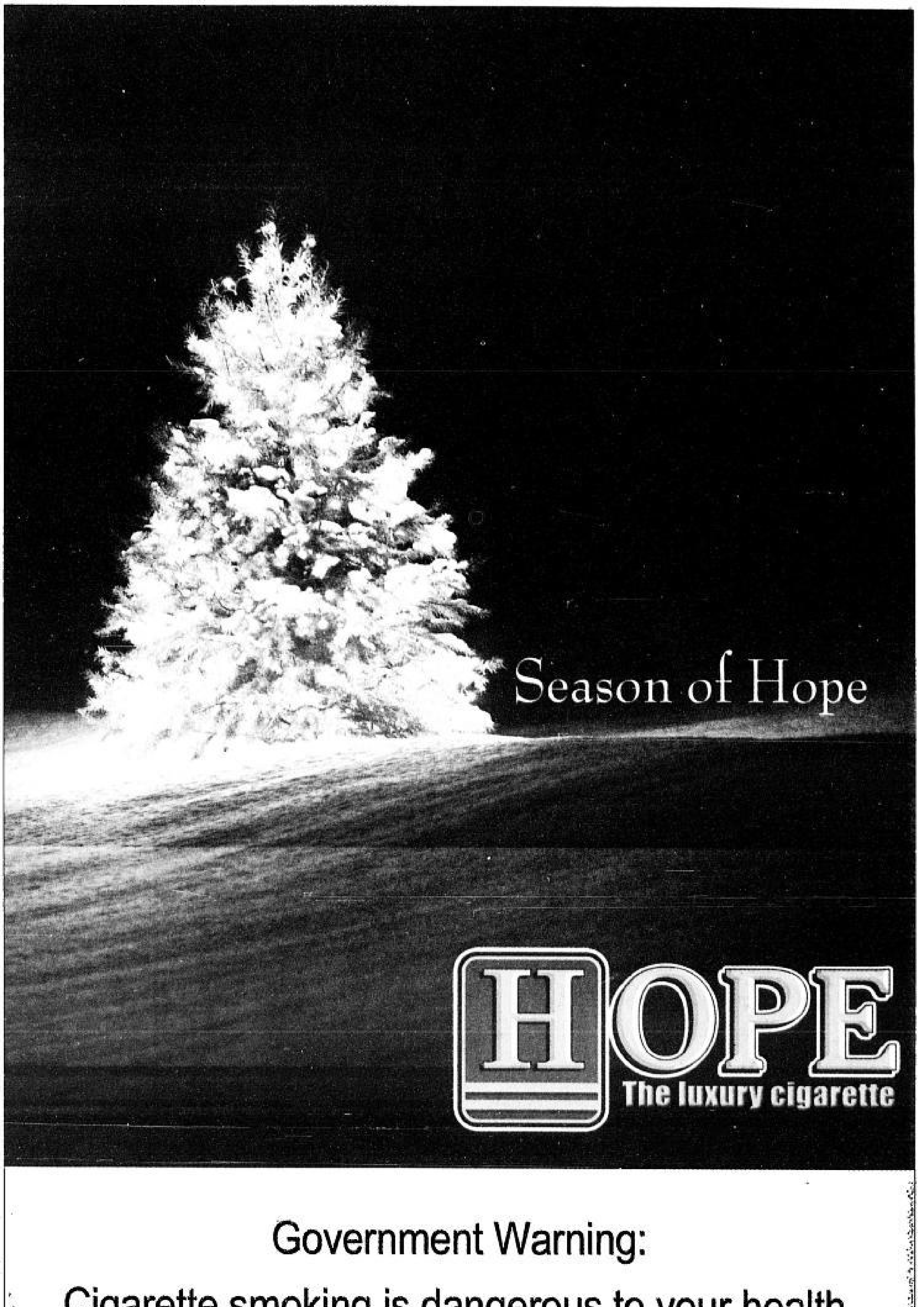
Ben Liclican came up with 26 points for Aguinaldo, which also drew a 23 from Leoncio Valderama, a 22 from Clyde Fernandez and 21 from Francis Calma. Ed Magnabijon showed the way for Capitol with 31.

Host Baguio Country Club had 78 for 230 to salvage third place.

Point Five Inc. (Guam) also held off The Square & Compass Golf Foundation to clinch the Am E crown.

The Guamanians had a 76 for 232 points, prevailing by five points over Square & Compass which closed with 84 for 227 points.

Lakewood was third with 208 after a 76.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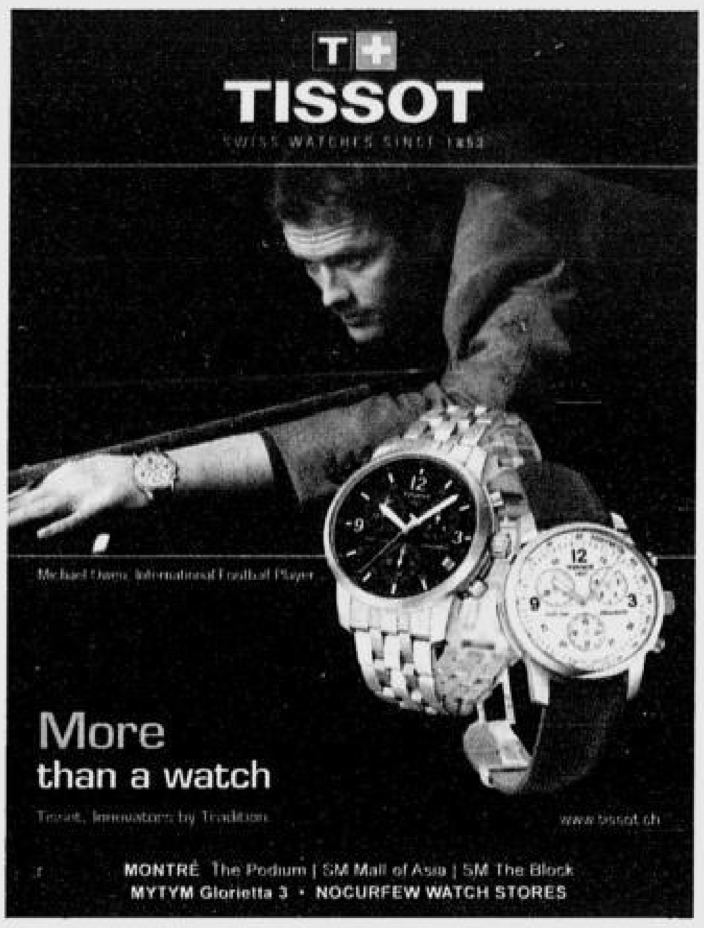
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Yi's departure pulls down China caging

BEIJING—YI JIANLIAN'S DEPARTURE to join fellow Chinese Yao Ming in the NBA has led to diminished interest in domestic basketball, local media reported on Thursday.

Six of the 17 teams in the professional Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) league have no TV coverage of their home games due to "low audience ratings and limited marketing opportunities", the China Daily reported.

By contrast, when the Milwaukee Bucks played the Houston Rockets on Nov. 10, pitching the two Chinese giants against each other for the first time in the NBA, 19 Chinese networks broadcast the game to an estimated audience of between 100 and 200 million.

"It is a very embarrassing situation," Hao Guohua, director of the CBA's managing office, told the paper.

Unlike in other markets, CBA teams have to pay local television stations if they want their games shown. The paper cited the example of Fujian Xunxing who were asked for 600,000 yuan ($81,080) to have one game shown live each week.

The CBA had claimed a television audience of some 315 million in 2005 but this season only 41 games will be aired on China's state television, compared with 96 NBA games. *Reuters*

THE SUNS' Amare Stoudemire dunks over the Rockets' Yao Ming. AP

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Pistons whip Cavs as James gets hurt

DETROIT—THE DETROIT Pistons raced to a 109-74 victory over Cleveland after the Cavaliers standout player LeBron James was injured on Wednesday.

James sprained his left index finger in the second quarter and the Pistons outscored the Cavaliers by 30 points in the second half.

James was injured when he drove to the basket with 4:41 left in the second quarter and was fouled by Detroit's Nazr Mohammed.

Mohammed reached for the ball but instead slammed James's left hand. James appeared to be in pain and but made two free throws and he remained in the game until the half.

JAMES shows sprained index finger.

X-rays were negative and James will be re-evaluated on Thursday, team officials said.

The defeat ended a four-game winning streak for the Cavaliers.

James topped Cleveland with 15 points despite not playing in the second half.

Yao Ming scored 31 points on 12 of 19 shooting and pulled down 13 rebounds as the Houston Rockets won their third straight game, beating the Phoenix Suns, 100-94.

The Toronto Raptors beat the Memphis Grizzlies, 103-91, but the victory was costly. Chris Bosh left the game with a strained right groin and Andrea Bargnani bruised his right knee.

The Dallas Mavericks snapped a three-game losing streak with a 109-103 home victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Tony Parker had 29 points and 11 assists as the San Antonio Spurs rolled to a 109-94 home win over the Washington Wizards.

Dwight Howard had a career-best 39 points and 16 rebounds in the Orlando Magic's 110-94 road win over the Seattle SuperSonics. *Reuters*

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US team to feed off crowd energy vs Russia—McEnroe

PORTLAND, OREGON—THE United States should hit top form in front of a capacity home crowd in this week's Davis Cup final against holders Russia, US captain Patrick McEnroe said.

Tickets sold out in less than 30 minutes for the 12,000-seater Memorial Coliseum and McEnroe is confident his players will thrive under the pressure of expectation.

"I expect our guys to play exceptionally well," McEnroe told reporters in the buildup to the three-day tie that starts on Friday.

"Of course, that doesn't guarantee a win because we're playing against a very, very tough team with a lot of great players and a lot of versatility.

"But we feel good about our chances and we like playing at home in front of our crowd, we'll take that kind of pressure."

RODDICK

McEnroe said the team were looking forward to playing in the Portland stadium, which would be "packed all day."

"The players are excited about it, they sort of feed off the energy of the crowd. There's a real buzz around the country, for the tennis fans especially, that this is a big deal."

World number six Andy Roddick, who will spearhead the American challenge in Portland, agreed.

The United States, winner of a record 31 Davis Cup titles, is desperate to win the prestigious team trophy for the first time in 12 years. The Americans' last success came in 1995 when Pete Sampras led them to victory over Russia on clay in Moscow.

Under McEnroe's captaincy, the US lost the 2004 final to Spain in Seville, 3-2. *Reuters*

Asingan hosts Criterium GP

ANOTHER BANNER CROWD IS EXPECTED when the 2007 Hitachi Criterium National Grand Prix returns to Pangasinan tomorrow with the eighth leg to be raced through the cycling town of Asingan.

Asingan Mayor Carlos Loez and Mayor Carlos Trese Mapili of neighboring town Tayug have joined hands to roll out the welcome mat to the hundreds of cycling enthusiasts who will witness the circuit races jointly organized with the Eastern Pangasinan Cycyling Association, Inc.

"We would like to thank EPCA president Dionisio Saffe Villar and Mayors Loez and Mapili in holding the Hitachi Criterium Grand Prix in Asingan," Leo Hsieh, Hitachi Airconditioning Phils. president, said.

Villar, whose group boasts 2,000 members in 19 Pangasinan towns, also thanked Region 1 Public Works director Fidel Ginez for allowing the use of the newly repaired town roads to stage the races supported by Hitachi, Smart Pro and Talk 'N Text.

Project events director Ric Rodriguez of organizing Pro Ad Concepts Marketing, Inc. said the 6.6-kilometer course starting and ending in front of the Asingan municipal hall will have four tight right turns.

Iloilo's Bamboo Tee under way

STA. BARBARA, ILOILO—THE 10TH BAMBOO Tee member-guest tournament, one of the highlights of the Centennial Celebration of the Iloilo Golf and Country Club, gets going today.

San Miguel Corp. is the presenter of the 18-hole event.

IGCC president Frankie Locsin, vice president Nonoy Braga and director Mark Rivera will hit the ceremonial balls at 8 a.m. on the final day of the tourney tomorrow.

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER leads the sponsors list which also includes The Turf Company, Cherry QQ Car, Malayan Insurance, Golf Network, Norkis Distributors Inc., Travel Club and Mang Inasal.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

BUSINESS

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Economy grew 6.6% in 3rd quarter

Neda says full-year expansion to exceed 7%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ECONOMY GREW BY 6.6 PERCENT IN THE THIRD quarter from a year earlier in what officials said was a broad-based expansion boosted by higher production seen in all key sectors.

This was faster than the 5.1-percent expansion recorded in the same period last year.

The agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector grew 5.6 percent, industry expanded by 6.1 percent and services rose 7.2 percent.

The growth was measured by the gross domestic product (GDP), which is the value of goods produced and services rendered during the period.

Gross national product (GNP) growth, which takes into account increases in external income such as remittances from overseas Filipino workers, stood at 8.2 percent, better than the 5.6 percent recorded in the third quarter of 2006.

"We attribute the growth not only to the favorable weather conditions and stronger domestic demand, but also to government policy and program interventions," said Augusto Santos, acting director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The third quarter growth, however, was slower than the 7.1 and 7.5 percent recorded in the first and second quarters, respectively. The growth for the first three quarters of the year stood at 7.1 percent, still ahead of the official full-year target of between 6.1 and 6.7 percent.

Santos said growth was slower in the third quarter because of the decline in export earnings. This was blamed on the slowdown of the US economy, the Philippines' biggest foreign market accounting for nearly 20 percent of Philippine-made exports.

Export revenues dropped 7.5 percent in the third quarter from that of the same period a year ago, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), an attached agency of the Neda.

Aside from the slowdown in the US economy, the appreciation of the peso was also blamed for the drop in exports. A rise in the peso makes Philippine-made goods more expensive, making them less competitive in the global market.

Data provided by the NSCB showed that the biggest contributors to the growth of the agriculture sector were corn production, which grew 14 percent; fishery, 9.7 percent; banana, 6.6 percent, and palay, 4.7 percent.

The growth in the industry sector was influenced largely by the 21.8-percent growth of mining and quarrying and the 16.7-percent increase in construction.

In the services sector, trade grew 8.2 percent, finance expanded by 7.9 percent, dwellings and real estate by 6.9 percent, private services by 8.5 percent, and transportation and communication by 6.4 percent.

Santos said the government was confident that the actual growth of

ECONOMY/ B4

Gov't sees 43-to-$1 exchange rate in 2008

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PESO WILL REMAIN STRONG next year and hover in the 43-to-a-dollar territory and this will continue to temper the increase in consumer prices despite the rising cost of oil in the world market.

This was the projection made by the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), which said the volatile oil prices would not cause too much concern as far as consumer prices and the state of the overall economy next year were concerned.

"We have stated several times earlier that inflation rate would have been higher this year if not for the strong peso. We believe that the peso will continue to be strong next year and help keep inflation benign," acting Neda Director General Augusto Santos told reporters yesterday at the sidelines of the press briefing on the third-quarter growth of the Philippine economy.

The peso is hovering in the high 42-to-a-dollar mark, much stronger than the 47 to 49 assumed by economic managers when they crafted the government's fiscal and budget programs for the year.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had said that the strengthening of the peso was a result of the increase in remittances from overseas Filipino workers and the rise in foreign investments into the country.

The BSP set a target of limiting inflation to between 4 and 5 percent this year. But in the first 10 months of the year, the increase in consumer prices averaged at only 2.6 percent.

Oil prices recently reached record highs near $100 a barrel, raising concerns that this could push consumer prices up. The Philippines is heavily dependent on imported oil, which accounts for 40 percent of the country's energy requirements.

Santos noted that despite the rising oil prices, the year-to-date increase in

NEDA/ B3

INDICATORS

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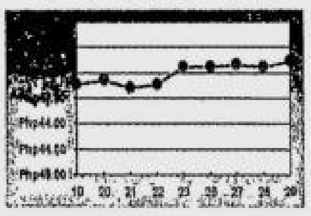


NOVEMBER

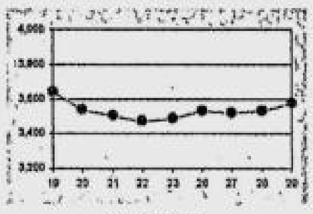
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱42.75 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 29, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



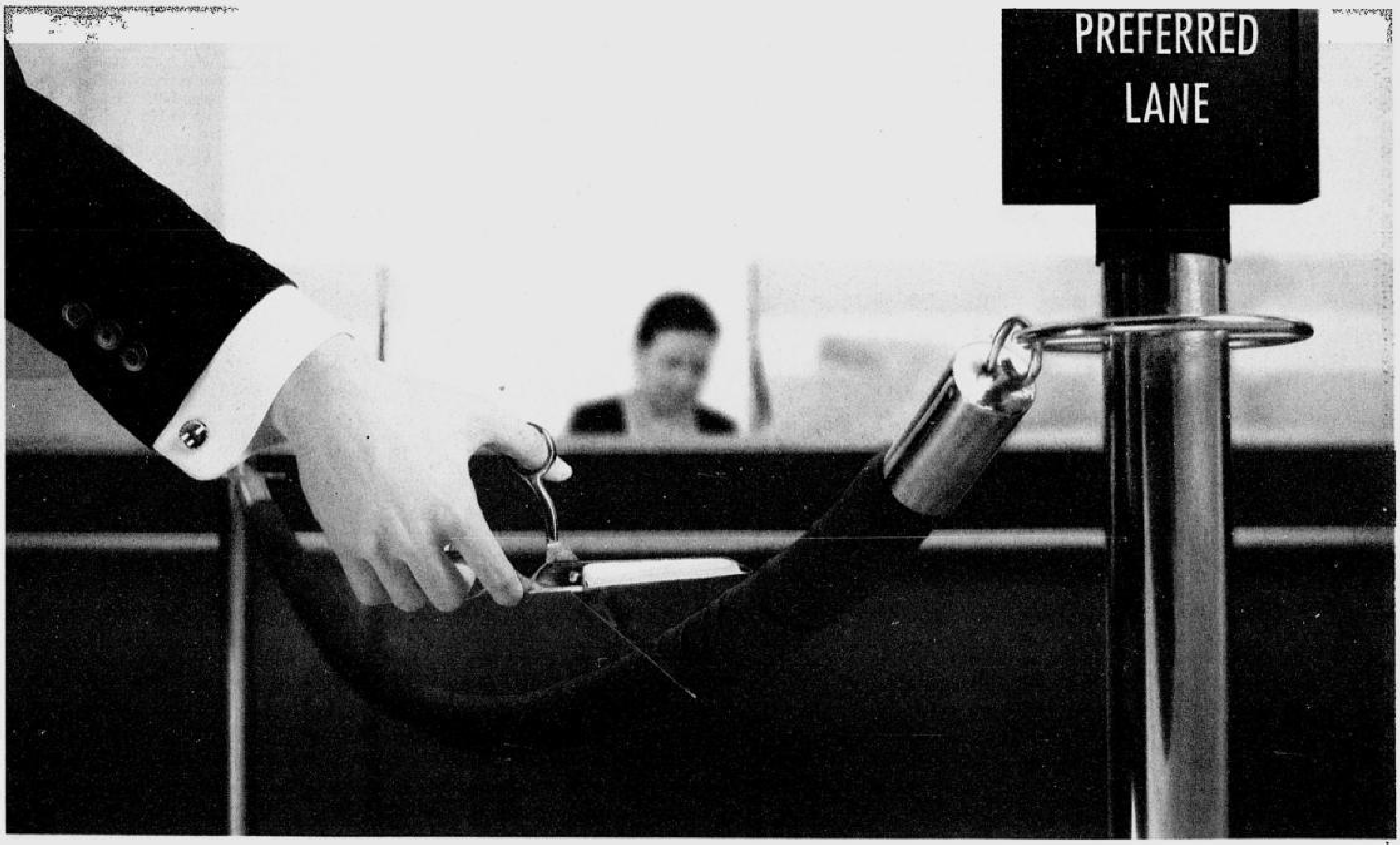
NOVEMBER
(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stock up 1.2% amid political tension

SHARES CLIMBED YESTERDAY IN A volatile session amid political tension caused by military officers that stormed out of a trial over an attempted coup and holed up in an upscale hotel. ***(See story on Page A1.)***

The Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 41.55 points, or 1.2 percent, to 3,578.55.

STOCKS/ B4



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Farm sector seen exceeding 4.5% growth goal

Letters, not bombs

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

BALLOTS, NOT BULLETS: THIS IS the nonviolent path for change during elections. But what will happen between election periods? A nonviolent path is: "Letters, not bombs."

But some will argue, "It takes two to tango." They contend that if the government ignores demands for justice, extreme measures should be taken.

The late Fr. Jose Blanco S.J., founder of the Center for Active Nonviolence, taught: "Violence only breeds more violence. With God's guidance, we must always choose the nonviolent path."

Two nights ago, in the Pinamungahan Municipality of Cebu, fisherfolk leaders followed Father Blanco's advice.

Unjust compensation

The purpose of last Wednesday's meeting was to decide what to do to get justice for small fisherfolk. Participants came from the Pinamungahan Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (PFARMC), fisherfolk organizations and the Tambuyog Development Center.

Arben Donan, PFARMC chair since 2002, has distinguished himself for community service since his younger years as 4H Club president for five years. He said: "What is happening in Pinamungahan today has happened in other forms in other areas before, where the poor are exploited unjustly to benefit a few. We do not want this to continue here."

Last Nov. 15, the Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. (Japex) started the oil and gas exploratory drilling in Tanon Strait off Cebu. This has greatly affected the fisherfolk of Pinamungahan and Aluginsan.

For two months of drilling, fisherfolk will be deprived of their livelihood because of a fishing ban covering a seven-kilometer radius around the project.

In addition, the drilling will damage the area's habitat, where coral reefs, mangrove areas, and sea grasses provide ecological balance and the future supply of fish.

Delfa Talaid (0917-3616020), based in the Cebu office of the Tambuyog Development Center (TDC), reports: "Even though the drilling started, there is no agreement on whether, or how much, the municipalities will be paid for the habitat destruction. In addition, the affected fisherman will be given only one sack of rice, equivalent to P1,000 a month. This is much less than the fisherman's average lost income of P5,300 a month, which we estimated from our TDC survey. A fisherman's family simply cannot live on P1,000 a month!"

Donan cites another survey initiated by the local government unit. Of the 1,500 affected fishermen, only 300 have the fishing gear to venture outside the area covered by the fishing ban. This means 1,200 will be totally without livelihood for two months. Given their survey results of an average catch of 3 kilograms (kg) per day at P95 per kg for 27 days a month, this would mean an income loss of P7,695 per month. But whether the loss is P5,300, or P7,695 a month, the sack of rice equivalent to P1,000 a month being given is definitely unjust.

Letters and threats

Last Nov. 16, rather than resorting to extreme measures to help solve this problem, TDC executive director and Alyansa Agrikultura treasurer Arsenio Tanchuling wrote letters to Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes and Natural Resources Secretary Jose Atienza Jr. Four days later, he wrote similar letters to Undersecretary and National Agricultural and Fisheries Council executive director Bernie Fontevilla and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Director Malcom Sarmiento Jr., a copy of which was given to Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap.

In the meantime, some fishermen have been threatened with the withdrawal of the monthly sack of rice if they protest the current arrangements. This adds insult to injury, when the already unjust small compensation offered will be withheld to curb a poor fisherman's right to freedom of speech.

Action taken

Donan reports of rumors that some disgruntled elements are thinking of taking extreme measures. The request for just compensation has been pending since May. Six months have passed: nothing has been done on this request, drilling has started, the fishing ban has been imposed, there is no compensation agreement for habitat destruction, a sack of rice is being given to affected fishermen who should get at least P5,300 a month, and now even this rice will be withdrawn from those who protest these unjust arrangements.

Donan says he was offered a job to help with the oil and gas exploration, perhaps to silence him. He turned it down, asking: "Who will be left to help get justice for the poor fisherfolk?"

Donan makes it clear that he favors the oil and gas exploration, but only if there is just compensation for the affected fisherfolk and habitat destruction.

Like Tanchuling who has written the energy, environment and agriculture secretaries, Donan chooses the peaceful path of writing letters to the same three secretaries to report on last Wednesday's meeting, and the fisherfolk's demand for justice.

Need for heroes

Today is National Heroes Day. Just as we need current day heroes like Donan and Talaid fighting for poor fisherfolk, we need similar heroes in Japex, DOE, DENR and DA to help this fight for justice.

Letters, not bombs, are symbols of the preferred nonviolent path for change. But as said earlier, "It takes two to tango." We need heroes on both sides of the conflict, or else we may have a future we would rather not think of.

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, former secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112).

Damages inflicted by typhoons considered negligible, says Yap

By Amy R. Remo

DESPITE THE TYPHOONS THAT HIT THE country this year, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said he was confident the agriculture sector would surpass the 4.5-percent growth target for 2007.

"At the rate we are going, the agriculture sector is coming out strong. We are not revising our targets as the damages inflicted by the typhoons are still negligible," he said.

For the first three quarters of the year, the sector posted growth rates of 3.3 percent, 4.09 percent and 5.39 percent, respectively.

According to Yap, the P308-million estimated crop damages reported earlier could not be considered a total loss as farms had already finished main harvests of rice and corn.

He explained that at this time of the year, crops could easily recover since most were already in the vegetative stage.

With a few more weeks to go before 2007 ends, Yap said he was praying that the country be spared from further tropical cyclones.

He said the regions that suffered the most damages from the recent typhoons were the Cagayan Valley with losses amounting to some P196 million and Bicol, P73 million.

Palay losses to date have been estimated at P240 million while corn posted P110 million in losses.

Despite the damages, Yap assured the public that there would be no unwarranted price spikes of basic commodities.

"Price movements will range from 3 percent to 5 percent only," he said.

"We don't see any reason why prices would skyrocket since the situation is artificial and not due to real lack of food. Any increases would be due to temporary, periodical disruptions in deliveries," he said.

Yap added that any price increase would also be due to the holiday season when demand for goods and produce would most likely rise.

In the meantime, Yap also cited the need to import at least 1 million metric tons of rice in 2008 to ensure the country's food security.

"There is no particular import figure yet but since we lack sufficient supply of rice, we have to import some 1 million to 1.5 million MT of rice," he said.

Yap noted that in the past few years, import volume had not exceeded the 1.6 million-1.7 million MT range, even if the population had been increasing by at least 2 percent yearly.

"This only means that local rice production is catching up with the country's requirements," Yap noted.

The question now is how to break out from importing and increase rice production so that by 2010, the country can attain 95-percent self sufficiency in rice, he added.

Coco exports up 9.7% in Aug.

EXPORTS OF COCONUT PRODUCTS DEclined by 9.7 percent in August this year to 147, 403 metric tons in copra terms from 163,240 MT a year ago, data from the Philippine Coconut Authority showed.

Despite the decline, gross export receipts rose by 34 percent to $95.58 million from $71.25 million a year ago, as world market prices appreciated sharply.

According to the PCA, major exports showed mixed trends, with copra meal and oleochemicals posting substantial growths.

In August alone, copra meal shipment increased by 36.1 percent to 22,103 MT (from last year's 16,243 MT), and oleochemicals, up 51.7 percent to 10,553 MT (from 6,958 MT).

In contrast, coconut oil exports in August fell 10.2 percent to 75,391 MT from last year's 83,993 MT, while delivery of desiccated coconut declined by 25.2 percent to 11,113 MT from 14,851 MT.

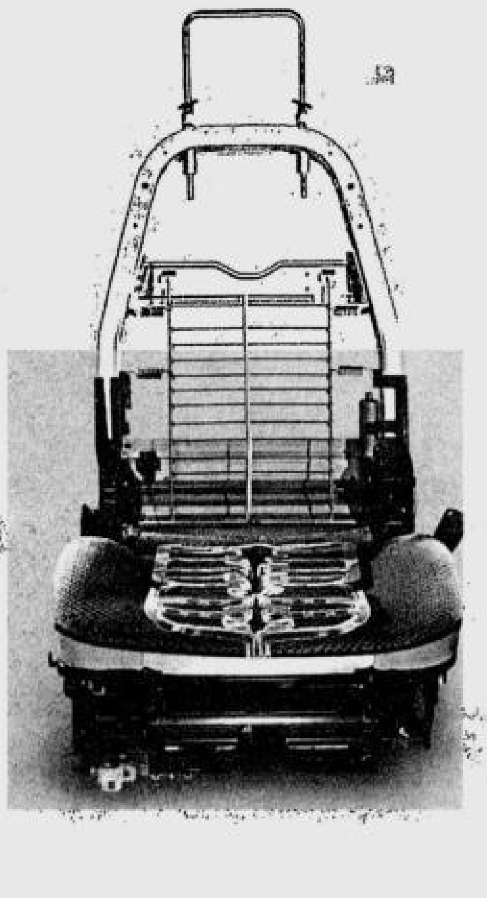
In the meantime, coconut products exports in the first eight months fell by 28.9 percent to 1.006 million MT in copra terms, from 1.414 million MT in the same period last year.

In August, US was still the leading destination for coconut oil exports, purchasing some 36,112 MT or about 47.9 percent of total volume, followed by Europe with 23,001 MT (30.5 percent).

Top buyers of crude coconut oil were US with 25,750 MT and Europe, mainly the Netherlands with 23,001 MT. Other importers were China with 3,063 MT, Japan with 2,200 MT and Taiwan with 40 MT.

Copra meal exports were shipped mostly to Korea with 13,847 MT, or about 62.7 percent of total export volume.

Vietnam remained the second biggest destination with 8,150 MT for a market share of 36.9 percent. Limited amounts were also channeled to Australia, 56 MT and Hong Kong, 49 MT. *Amy Remo*



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DBP to acquire 69% stake of gov't in Al-Amanah Bank

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines is set to buy out the 69-percent stake held by the national government in the Al-Amanah Investment Bank to make inroads into Islamic banking, now emerging as a lucrative niche even in international banking given rising wealth in oil-rich Middle East.

The government's Privatization Management Office (PMO), which again tried in vain to bid out the controlling stake in the country's only Islamic bank last May, recently approved the DBP's offer to buy the stake at par value, acting Al-Amanah Bank CEO Jaime Panganiban said in an interview yesterday.

Other shareholders of the Islamic bank—including state-pension funds Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System (which own 10 percent each) and some private Muslim investors holding less than 2 percent—were set to approve the DBP's takeover bid, but the special stockholders' meeting scheduled yesterday was postponed.

The DBP, which itself holds a 10-percent stake in Al-Amanah, will thus raise its equity interest in the capital-deficient bank to nearly 80 percent.

After four failed biddings, Panganiban said the national government, through Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, accepted DBP's proposal to rehabilitate the Islamic bank and bring in a foreign strategic partner within the next three to five years.

DBP president Reynaldo David said fresh equity would have to be infused into Al-Amanah Bank to comply with the P1-billion minimum capital required by the bank's charter.

Islamic banking is a type of banking that conforms to the Koran, which prohibits the charging of interest. Instead, the bank provides funding like an equity investor who shares in the profits or losses of an enterprise. Financing is structured like lease-to-own arrangements, layaway plans, joint purchase and sale agreements, or partnerships.

Even big international banks like Citibank, HSBC and Deutsche Bank have recently invested in Islamic banking, realizing the huge potential of doing business with the Muslim world especially in the Middle East, which is reaping large windfalls from skyrocketing global oil prices.

Panganiban said Al-Amanah had a big capital deficiency but has some idle real estate assets which could offset part of the shortfall.

He said the valuation for the government's stake in Al-Amanah was still subject to negotiations. He said the DBP had set certain conditions on its takeover, some of which involved the Bureau of the Treasury's deposits with the Islamic bank.

During the last bidding in May when the government attempted to sell 90 percent of Al-Amanah (including shares of some government financial institutitons), the floor price was set at P900 million.

Panganiban, who was previously a director of Al-Amanah representing the DBP, became interim CEO of the Islamic bank after the former bank chief, Datu Ali Sangki, was appointed by Malacañang as undersecretary for the Office of Muslim Affairs last August.

Gov't cuts export growth forecast to 8%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACknowledged that the export growth target for the year was no longer attainable given the anemic growth of the US and Japanese economies, the Philippines biggest trading partners.

Augusto Santos, acting director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said the latest projection for this year's export growth was now at 8 percent compared with the original target of 11 percent.

The Neda forecast, however, was more optimistic than the export sector's projection of 5 percent.

"The official projection is now at 8 percent. This (lower-than-target exports growth) was not only due to the appreciation of the peso but also because of the slowdown in the economies of our export markets.

The export sector has complained about the strengthening of the peso, which they said made Philippine-made products more expensive and therefore less competitive in the international market.

The 11-percent export growth target was based on the assumption that the peso would average at 47 to 49 to a dollar, but the local currency is now hovering in the high 42 mark.

The slowdown in the US economy was partly blamed on its subprime market woes brought about by defaults on housing loans by high-risk borrowers. The crisis resulted to creditors and investors shying away from the subprime market and affecting the entire US economy.

Latest data from the National Statistics Office showed that the United States accounted for 17 percent of the $4.37 billion in Philippine exports for September.

Electronics remained as the country's biggest export product, accounting for 61 percent of total export earnings for September.

Merchandise exports by the Philippines grew only 4.9 percent to $37.2 billion in the first nine months of the year. This prompted export groups to ask the government to intervene in the foreign exchange market and stop the appreciation of the peso.

The Philippine Exporters Confederation earlier asked the government to peg the peso at 47 to a dollar to keep the competitiveness of Filipino products.

Santos said there were other ways for the government and the private sector to help offset the ill-effects of a strong peso on the competitiveness of exports. The country's chief economist said pegging the peso to a certain dollar value was not a policy that the government would adopt.

The BSP earlier said more government loans have been made accessible to exporters to help improve their competitivenesss amid the rising peso.

Neda sees . . .

From page B1

domestic oil prices stood at only 2 percent from the same period in 2006.

"If not for the strong peso, the increase in oil prices could have been at double-digit levels," Santos said.

Besides tempering inflation, a stronger local currency also helps reduce a government's foreign currency-denominated debts. The Department of Finance earlier said that the government saved P31.6 billion in interest payments for the first 10 months of the year partly due to the stronger-than-expected peso.

However, the strengthening of the peso also has its downside. Exporters have complained that the unexpected increase in the local currency has made Philippine-made products much less competitive in the international market.

A rise in the peso makes Philippine-made products more expensive.

The Philippine Exporters Confederation earlier said the government should move to keep the peso from appreciating further, and to peg the peso at 47 to a dollar.

Exports growth for the first nine months of the year stood at 4.9 percent, much lower than the 11-percent growth target of the government.

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Cigarette companies have traditionally used various means to allow consumers to distinguish between products. These may be words, like "light", "smooth", "mild" or pack colors, or other elements of product and pack design.

None of these elements of pack or product design, including the brand names, taste and flavor of our cigarettes, are intended to suggest that any cigarette is less harmful than any other.

In particular, tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide numbers printed on cigarette packs do not give individual smokers a precise figure of how much of these substances they inhale.

These numbers indicate the amount of tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide contained in the smoke of each cigarette in the pack when measured under standard conditions by a special smoking machine. They provide an internationally recognized method of comparison between different brands, used in many countries around the world by manufacturers and public authorities alike.

However, a smoking machine cannot replicate the way each individual smokes. Smokers puff on cigarettes in different ways and may inhale different amounts of tar and nicotine from what is indicated on the pack.

For instance, it is possible that when switching to cigarettes with lower tar and nicotine numbers, some smokers may vary the way they smoke and obtain to some extent the experience of smoking a higher tar and nicotine number product. They may do so, for example, by taking more puffs or larger puffs.

No cigarette is safe. So you should not switch to another type, flavor or strength of cigarettes on the assumption that it will lower your health risks from smoking. Switching is not a substitute for quitting. If you want to reduce or eliminate the health risks of smoking, quitting is the best choice for you. Many smokers have quit without help, but if you have difficulty quitting, you should consult a health professional.

JTI

Landbank to issue $100M worth of hybrid bonds

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED LAND BANK of the Philippines plans to sell $100 million worth of hybrid bonds abroad to boost its core capital by December, top bank officials said.

In a briefing Wednesday night, Landbank president Gilda Pico said proceeds from the overseas offering would be followed by an issuance of P2.5 billion worth of domestic subordinated debt or Tier 2 notes that will qualify as supplementary capital.

"As we increase our loans, we also have to match it by increasing capital," Pico said.

She said proceeds from the two fund-raising activities would jack up the bank's capital adequacy ratio by 3.5 percentage points from the current 14.9 percent.

Landbank executive vice president Alfonso Cruz said demand for loans was rising from large corporate borrowers, reflective of the country's robust economic growth.

"Major accounts plan to borrow in early part of December. They are gearing up for 2008," Cruz said.

Landbank has mandated foreign banks Citibank and Deutsche Bank to arrange the $100-million hybrid bond offer while Deutsche Bank will also underwrite the Tier 2 notes offering.

Hybrid capital instruments have equity-like features that make them acceptable as Tier 1 or core capital. They also have a "perpetual" maturity and are redeemable by the issuer only, subject to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas approval. They may be in the form of unsecured subordinated debt or preferred shares and allow banks to absorb losses similar to a common equity.

Landbank is still awaiting approval from the BSP and the national government for the two offerings.

"We have targeted Dec. 12 (for the hybrid notes) but it may change. It also depends on market conditions," Cruz said.

"Right now, market conditions are not conducive because of the subprime issue. We have to be very careful when we come out," he said.

Rising delinquencies among subprime mortgage credit in the United States, which have caused big losses to big western banks, are causing sporadic global investor aversion to assets from emerging markets like the Philippines.

Subprime mortgages are housing loans given to borrowers with blemished credit history and little equity.

Meanwhile, Landbank is also set to sell P3.2 billion worth of nonperforming loans and foreclosed assets through a second auction under the Special Purpose Vehicle framework on Dec. 12.

The SPV Law gives fiscal incentives to wholesale asset transfers, aiming to encourage banks to clean up their books and free up more funds for lending. It waives the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and expanded value-added tax while reducing the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent.

Ernst & Young is the bank's adviser for this transaction.

Pico said the bank was transforming nonperforming assets into performing assets in order to expand its loans to the priority sectors and optimize revenues.

The transaction, once completed, will bring down the bank's nonperforming loan ratio to 4.2 percent from 5.5 percent.

13th-month pay

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

BY THIS TIME OR, AT THE LATEST, next week, most private companies would have given the 13th-month pay of their employees.

The obligation of employers to give their employees an extra month's salary to help them cope with the expenses of the holiday season dates back to 1975, courtesy of Presidential Decree No. 851 of President Ferdinand Marcos.

For those who may have forgotten or were very young then, the order (which had the force and effect of a law) was issued during the martial law years when Marcos arrogated unto himself executive and legislative powers.

Initially, the right to receive the additional money was granted only to employees receiving a basic monthly salary of P1,000 or less.

The minimum daily wage at that time was roughly P40.

When President Cory Aquino came into power in 1986, she removed the salary ceiling and made the wage rule applicable to all rank-and-file employees, except for those employed in companies that are exempt from its coverage.

Although aimed at the least paid employees, the benefit has, in practice, been extended by most companies to all their employees regardless of their take-home pay.

And rightly so because the Christmas and New Year spirit--and its attendant expenses--cuts across all sectors of our society, atheists and non-conformists excluded.

Basic salary

The 13th-month pay is equivalent to one-twelfth of the basic salary received by an employee within the year.

If an employee worked for less than a year (regardless of the cause for the termination of his employment), the amount due him is determined by dividing the total salary he received by the number of months he was employed.

The computation of the basic salary does not include allowances and monetary benefits that are not considered or integrated as part of the employee's regular compensation.

The items that are taken off the list are: cash equivalent of unused vacation and sick leave credits; overtime, premium, night differential and holiday pay, and cost-of-living allowance.

If, however, these benefits are, by agreement company practice or policy treated as part of the basic salary, then they shall be included in the computation of an employee's 13th-month pay.

Although the law requires that the extra pay be given not later than Dec. 24, the employer may give 50 percent before the opening of the regular school year and the balance on the cut-off date mentioned.

Coverage

Some employers are averse to partial payments because when the second half of the pay is given in December, the employees often develop amnesia about the payment earlier made and demand that their 13th-month pay be made whole again.

Until it was made compulsory, most companies paid their employees the 13th-month pay in the nature of a "Christmas bonus."

The employees appreciated the voluntary gesture because it was in keeping with the gift-giving spirit of the season. The child in the employee took delight at his employer playing, for his benefit, the role of Santa Claus.

When the 13th-month pay decree came out, those who were already receiving a Christmas bonus from their employer thought the extra pay decreed by the government would be in addition to their company benefit.

No dice. The decree states that employers already paying their employees the equivalent of a 13th-month pay are exempted from its coverage. Some companies though chose to maintain their Christmas bonus on top of the obligatory 13th-month pay.

The positive feeling that accompanies the payment of extra income for the holiday season is somehow diminished when the act partakes the nature of a a legal obligation rather than an expression of the goodness of the employer.

Tax obligation

The recipient of the 13th-month pay is not the only beneficiary of that Christmas-related gesture. The government shares in it by way of income tax.

Under existing tax regulations, up to a maximum of P30,000 of that additional income is exempt from the income tax due from fixed wage earners.

Anything beyond that cut-off amount must be included in the computation of the employee's gross income for the applicable taxable year.

Ordinarily, the tax due for income received by an employee should be withheld by the employer and, later, remitted to the BIR, before he gets his pay check.

Economy grew 6.6% in 3rd quarter

From page B1

the economy for the full year would exceed the official target, given the robust performance in the first three quarters.

"The economy can easily achieve a growth of 7 percent for the full year," Santos said. Historical data indicate that the economy usually posted higher growth in the fourth quarter than in the first three quarters, Santos said.

Santos reiterated earlier pronouncements that the Philippines was no longer a laggard in the region. He said the 6.6-percent growth in the third quarter was competitive with those of neighboring countries.

This was better than Indonesia's 6.5 percent, Hong Kong's 6.2 percent and South Korea's 5.2 percent. It was, however, slower than China's 11.5 percent, Singapore's 8.9 percent and Taiwan's 6.9 percent.

Stock up …

From page B1

The trouble in Makati City was "a minority report as far as the stock market is concerned," said Nestor Aguila, president of DA Market Securities. "It gave us a good opportunity to buy some more."

Top-traded Ayala Corp. rose 1.8 percent to P560 and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. climbed 2.8 percent to P3,100. *AP*

CURRENCIES

November 29, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.674172	1.000000	42.7980
Japan	Yen	0.006124	0.009083	0.3887
United Kingdom	Pound	1.403357	2.081600	89.0883
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.086609	0.128467	5.4981
Switzerland	Franc	0.606543	0.899685	38.5047
Canada	Dollar	0.684439	1.015228	43.4497
Singapore	Dollar	0.467137	0.692905	29.6549
Australia	Dollar	0.595085	0.882690	37.7774
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.800193	2.670227	114.2804
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.181718	0.269542	11.5359
Brunei	Dollar	0.465524	0.690512	29.5525
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000071	0.000106	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.021889	0.032468	1.3896
UAE	Dirham	0.184301	0.273373	11.6998
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.483300	63.4823
Korea	Won	0.000724	0.001074	0.0460
China	Yuan**	0.091172	0.135236	5.7878
Denmark	Kroner	0.134108	0.198922	8.5135
India	Rupee	0.017042	0.025278	1.0818
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.199459	0.295856	12.6621
New Zealand	Dollar	0.519393	0.770416	32.9723
Sweden	Kroner	0.106879	0.158534	6.7849
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.020868	0.030953	1.3247

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 28, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 28, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 29, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.8	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.3	175,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	57	58	56	56	3,229,700
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	63.5	64.5	61.5	62.5	4,126,600
748	544	China Banking Corp.	680	680	670	670	650
23.5	14	Citystate Savings Bank	22.75	23	22.75	23	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	2,100,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	55.5	56.5	53.5	54	2,993,500
65.5	39	Philippine National Bank	44	44.5	42	44.5	771,000
68	46	Philippine Savings Bank	60.5	61	60.5	61	1,500
39.57	20	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24	24.5	23.75	24.25	2,216,300
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	72	72	70	70	133,200
66	42	Union Bank of the Philippines	44	44.5	43.5	43.5	444,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4	4	4	4	25,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.94	1.96	1.88	1.9	3,957,000
16.25	4.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	11.5	11.5	10.5	11	2,234,100
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	50,000
5.9	4.8	I-Remit Inc.	5	5	4.8	4.8	1,065,000
1,970.00	1,580.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,705.00	1,710.00	1,705.00	1,710.00	1,590
5	2.7	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.05	3.05	2.85	2.9	4,480,000
1,390.00	260	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,080.00	1,130.00	1,040.00	1,040.00	60,060
2,500.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,220.00	2,225.00	2,220.00	2,225.00	820
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.48	1.52	1.48	1.48	2,004,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	4.9	5.2	4.9	5.1	6,592,000
0.57	0.22	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.3	0.33	0.28	0.3	1,870,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	58	59	56.5	56.5	2,384,700
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	67	68.5	62.5	64	3,065,700
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	17	17	16.5	16.75	12,533,500
105.45	27.73	Manila Electric Co.	73	76.5	71	72.5	4,292,800
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.9	7	6.7	6.9	25,184,000
7.4	3.95	Petron Corp.	6	6.2	5.7	5.7	18,762,000
14.75	6.4	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	6.9	7	6.7	6.7	275,000
2.04	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.28	1.44	1.28	1.34	12,907,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.4	Alaska Milk Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.8	936,000
2.32	1.48	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.56	1.62	1.48	1.52	4,240,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	22.5	22.5	15,800
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	48.5	51	48.5	49.5	2,924,900
9.1	5.7	Pancake House Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	40,000
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	460,000
3.3	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.7	701,000
60	42.5	San Miguel Corp. "A"	48	51.5	47.5	50	470,300
88	43	San Miguel Corp. "B"	48.5	52	48	50.5	2,096,100
0.66	0.33	Swift Foods Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	10,000
6.5	3	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	10,000
20.75	13.5	Universal Robina Corp.	14.5	14.75	14	14	1,303,600
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.65	EEI Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.3	4.6	2,743,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	689,000
2	0.81	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1	1.04	0.94	0.97	6,230,000
23	1.48	TKC Steel Corp	9.5	9.6	8.7	8.8	1,534,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.2	4.25	4	4.05	842,000
2.4	1.31	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	20,000
1.4	0.61	Interphil Laboratories Inc. "B"	1	1	1	1	50,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	60,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc	0.37	0.38	0.34	0.35	12,130,000
9	6.2	Splash Corp	7.1	7.1	6.2	6.2	1,390,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
39	18.75	ABS-CBN Holdings Corp.-PDR	34	34	34	34	10,800
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	283,000
0.185	0.0525	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.11	0.11	165,710,000
1.28	0.29	APC Group Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.57	0.59	1,810,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.65	2.65	2.4	2.5	197,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	1,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	44,000,000
9.7	5.8	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	729,000
0.021	0.0095	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	37,100,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.6	5.8	5.5	5.7	55,139,000
1.38	0.59	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.71	0.72	250,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.48	2.5	2.42	2.42	3,490,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	3	3	3	3	13,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	565	575	550	560	1,849,050
5.8	1.64	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.9	4	3.7	3.9	3,926,000
12	5	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10.5	10.5	9.6	9.8	1,823,000
8	3.15	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.5	120,000
3.55	1.76	House of Investments Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	135,000
14.5	8.7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	10	10	9.8	9.8	194,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	1,000
0.8	0.23	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.45	0.54	0.46	0.54	350,000
11.5	1.5	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.8	6.8	5.9	6.1	6,447,000
8.5	3	PAL Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	70,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.24	0.25	0.22	0.23	1,015,060,000
0.75	0.19	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.5	0.53	0.47	0.47	10,260,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	350	355	327.5	327.5	257,880
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	2,000
0.73	0.14	Sinophil Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.34	4,740,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.29	0.29	5,230,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.68	0.68	0.51	0.51	210,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.44	1.46	405,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.1	7.4	7	7.4	168,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.75	15.25	15.25	39,791,800
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.12	1.12	4,746,000
4.7	3.05	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.7	3.2	3.7	2,341,000
3.83	1.9	City and Land Developers Inc.	2	2	1.9	1.9	156,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	150,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.34	0.34	18,080,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.71	0.73	9,680,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	15,000
0.47	0.0575	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.225	0.225	4,930,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	0.97	1	23,996,000
2.44	1.28	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.56	1.6	1.46	1.48	60,801,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.46	530,000
4.6	1.96	Megaworld Corp.	3.9	4	3.75	3.9	51,246,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.75	3.75	600,000
5.2	2.2	Metro Pacific Investments Corp-Warrants	2.7	2.75	2.6	2.6	492,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	70,000
0.86	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.43	0.5	0.42	0.43	2,700,000
9.2	1.36	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	80,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	18.5	18.75	18	18.25	4,408,100
5.9	1.93	SM Development Corp.	4	4	3.8	3.8	765,000
13.5	7.6	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.5	8,795,500
3.25	1.5	Shang Properties Inc.	2.26	2.26	2.22	2.22	193,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	2.04	2.04	1.9	1.92	604,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.5	0.5	1,130,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.245	0.245	6,780,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.9	21,190,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34	34	33.5	34	326,400
12	7.6	GMA Holdings Inc	7.8	8.1	7.8	7.8	3,235,000
11.75	7.5	GMA Network Inc	7.7	7.9	7.7	7.8	472,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.32	1.34	1.28	1.28	4,180,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,510.00	1,560.00	1,510.00	1,520.00	63,160
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,040.00	3,105.00	3,040.00	3,100.00	179,920
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp	7.2	7.3	6.7	7.1	3,392,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.18	1,880,000
15.5	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	13.75	13.75	12.5	13.25	3,208,800
11.5	2.5	IPVG Corp.	7.6	7.9	7.4	7.8	1,735,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.039	0.039	0.036	0.038	41,700,000
0.32	0.05	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	7,450,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.34	1,000,000
0.0725	0.03	Philweb Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.046	0.047	77,000,000
5.8	1.64	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.48	2.55	1,342,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	232,000
48	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	43.5	48	43.5	47	8,290,500
2.04	1.12	Lorenzo Shipping Corp	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	25,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.24	2.42	2.24	2.42	221,000
1.16	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.96	0.97	9,170,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.85	0.87	0.83	0.84	1,990,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	13,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2.04	Macroasia Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.5	4.55	67,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.25	11.25	11	11	78,000
30	6.2	Paxys Inc.	7	7.1	6.2	6.8	885,000
472.5	390	eTelecare Global Solutions Inc	445	460	425	442.5	74,700
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	97,000,000
7.2	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.7	7	6.3	6.5	5,729,000
7.4	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	7	7.3	6.8	6.8	3,177,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	12.75	13.25	12.5	12.75	1,255,500
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12	13.25	12	13	376,700
12.75	1.96	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	9.4	9.5	8.5	8.7	266,000
3.1	0.6	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	1.94	2	1.74	1.82	110,573,000
0.56	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.53	0.53	0.47	0.48	274,980,000
0.61	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.57	0.58	0.51	0.53	133,860,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.029	0.03	0.027	0.028	663,100,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.032	0.034	0.032	0.032	812,400,000
30	3.6	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	20.75	21	18	19.25	3,560,000
0.021	0.0088	Omico Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.013	0.014	1,520,700,000
0.015	0.007	Omico Corp.-Warrants	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.009	63,000,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.8	9.9	9.4	9.8	10,322,000
49.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	46	49.5	46	46	1,682,000
1.36	0.55	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.65	0.65	1,310,000
1.8	0.85	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.12	1.12	1.08	1.08	3,581,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	5,420,000
0.029	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.023	0.024	0.022	0.022	252,800,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.026	0.026	0.024	0.025	111,000,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10	9.9	9.9	151,000
0.032	0.0095	The Philodrill Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.026	0.026	657,600,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	862.98 UP	4.19	30,070,320	853,367,345.00
Industrial	4,152.69 UP	41.66	126,762,200	1,568,173,575.00
Holding Firms	1,982.42 DOWN	11.38	1,359,396,930	1,793,534,340.00
Property	1,570.76 DOWN	7.69	264,351,400	1,270,962,880.00
Service	1,864.57 UP	57.73	164,975,480	1,200,605,505.00
Mining & Oil	8,286.26 DOWN	168.46	4,670,843,200	855,951,575.00
All Shares Index	2,172.57 UP	15.20		
PSEI	3,578.55 UP	41.55		
		GRAND TOTALS	6,616,399,530	7,542,595,220.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

SubicTel completes fiber optic expansion

By Riza T. Olchondra

SUBIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS Co. Inc. or SubicTel, a subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., has completed its fiber optic network expansion project.

SubicTel said the project cost PLDT P210 million.

"We committed to complete the project by December, and we are happy to report that we are a little early," SubicTel general manager Henry Abes said.

"We will now be able to address the needs of existing and potential customers much more quickly," he said.

The fiber optic expansion gives Subic locators more reliable high-speed broadband services.

The expansion brings SubicTel's bandwidth capacity to 2.5 gigabits per second (Gbps) or STM-16 to meet rising demand.

The 2.5 Gbps bandwidth is enough for 30,240 simultaneous voice calls.

Earlier this year, SubicTel connected another 45-Mbps bandwidth pipe from PLDT, doubling last year's bandwidth capacity.

The first leg of the new fiber optic connection was completed when the operations center of Korean shipbuilding firm Hanjin was connected from Redondo Peninsula in Subic to SubicTel in the Freeport in late July.

The Hanjin fiber optic link spans about 25 kilometers, passing through Subic and Olongapo City. Hanjin is now directly connected to its headquarters in Korea by way of PLDT's international link.

The latest network expansion project spans 286 km of fiber optic cables that form several redundant loops covering Angeles, Clark, Porac, San Fernando, Guagua, Lubao and Floridablanca in Pampanga, and Dinalupihan in Bataan, Subic Town in Zambales, and Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Olongapo.

BCDA signs P4-B loan deal

Additional fund to cover increases in cost of SCTEx

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT Authority yesterday said it had signed a P4-billion syndicated loan facility with a group of four lenders to fund its equity counterpart in the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project.

BCDA Chair Aloysius Santos said the lenders were Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and First Metro Investment Corp.

Narciso L. Abaya, BCDA president and chief executive, said that from a financial standpoint, it would have been best to finish the SCTEx without drawing from the standby credit lines for the project and just use the special yen loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Construction of the 93.7-kilometer SCTEx is funded through a P21-billion loan from Japanese government JBIC.

Last September, the National Economic and Development Authority approved a supplemental loan worth 18 billion yen or about P6.725 billion mainly to fund the increase in cost of the SCTEx project which was brought about by the rise in the prices of construction materials.

"With the strengthening of the peso against the yen in recent months, the BCDA was getting less proceeds from the JBIC loan so we needed to tap this facility," Abaya explained.

He said the project was 91-percent complete as of Nov. 14 and that it would be fully completed by the first quarter of 2008.

Once finished, the expressway would link the newly built seaport in Subic and the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark, which would make easier the movement of goods, services and people.

BCDA said travel time from Clark to Subic will be cut down to 30 minutes from an hour or so, while that from Clark to Tarlac will take only 25 minutes. The reduction in travel time alone will help contribute in reducing the cost of doing business in the region.

Eleven interchanges would be built along the expressway, including those of the Tipo Junction, Dinalupihan, Clark Logistics, Spur/North Luzon Expressway, Clark North, Concepcion, San Miguel, and La Paz as well as Clark Logistics-2 , Porac in Dolores and Basa in Floridablanca.

Also, 33 bridges would be built, including the main bridges that span the Sacobia-Bamban River at 1.16 km; Pasig-Potrero River Bridge (720 meters); Porac River (400 m); and the Gumain River (318 m).

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VAT exemption for OFWs sought

By Michelle V. Remo

THE FEDERATION OF PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIES has urged the government to convert the duty-free privileges of overseas Filipino workers into exemption from the 12-percent value-added tax.

The FPI said the VAT exemption, instead of duty-free privileges, will encourage OFWs and their families to buy more locally produced goods rather than imported ones.

Such a move will help promote domestic industries, FPI president Jesus Arranza said, adding that the current duty-free privilege of OFWs was benefiting only foreign producers.

Under the New Balikbayan Law, or Republic Act No. 9174, *balikbayans* or OFWs returning to the Philippines, are allowed to purchase $1,500 worth of duty-free items at the Duty Free shops within 15 days upon arrival. But they should have worked overseas for at least a year. *Balikbayans* are also entitled to shop another $2,000 worth of duty-free tools used for livelihood activities.

"If the $2,000 to be spent for duty-free shopping is transformed into VAT-free purchases, this will be a big boost to the local industries. That amount is already equivalent to more than P80,000 per OFW," Arranza said.

The National Statistics Office earlier reported that the volume of production by the manufacturing sector dropped by 1 percent in September from year-ago level. This followed a 5.7-percent year-on-year decline posted in August.

The continued decline in the volume of production by the manufacturing sector is feared to cause job losses in the months ahead.

Analysts said the decline in manufacturing output was partly due to the strong appreciation of the peso, which led to drop in the cost of imported goods.

The FPI official also said that OFWs would benefit more from the VAT exemption rather than duty-free privileges.

Arranza said that while local industries and exporters were adversely affected by a strong peso, the government was benefiting because the appreciation of the currency trims its foreign currency-denominated debts.

He said that revenue loss arising from the VAT exemption of OFWs could be covered by portion of the savings from the drop in its foreign debt payments.

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Equity Fund - Peso	0.92925	0.93171
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.4171	1.4215

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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CalEnergy Philippines' Social Responsibility, finalist in this year's US Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence

CalEnergy Philippines was selected as one of the nine finalists in this year's US Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence (ACE). The company was chosen from a record of 62 nominations submitted by US Chiefs of Mission in different countries worldwide.

The ACE awards recognize the critical role US-based companies play in advancing good corporate citizenship, innovation and democratic principles abroad in countries where they operate.

Since 1994, CalEnergy has been operating in the Philippines through its Build-Operate-Transfer projects. Three of these – namely the Upper Mahiao, Malitbog and Mahanagdong Geothermal Projects in Leyte – have already been handed over to the Philippine government. The first was turned over last June 25, 2006 and the other two last July 25, 2007.

CalEnergy currently operates the Casecnan Multipurpose Power Project, a combined irrigation and hydroelectric power project located in the middle of Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya. It collects water from the Casecnan and Taan Rivers and transports it through a 26-kilometer transbasin tunnel to the existing Pantabangan Reservoir.

CalEnergy Philippines was chosen as one of the nine ACE finalists for its outstanding Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs in the country. The company brings development to the countryside by directly working with its host communities, regarding them as important stakeholders in its projects.

CalEnergy's initiatives include Education, Environment, Livelihood, Community Development, Medical and Health, Civic Programs and Employee Volunteerism. Through these programs, the company strives to uplift the quality of life in the communities, leaving a lasting legacy that will benefit future generations.

The ACE award winners were announced last November 6, 2007 at the Benjamin Franklin room; Washington, DC. The Small or Medium Enterprise Category winner was Transnational Automotive Group (TAUG) for its work in Cameroon. The Multinational Category winner was General Electric (GE) for its efforts in Indonesia.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was present in the said event to congratulate the winners.

CalEnergy International is an affiliate of MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company, a global leader in the production, supply and distribution of energy. It explores and develops energy sources that are reliable, renewable, clean, indigenous, economical and beneficial to the environment.

More information can be found at www.calenergy.com

World economic growth slowing, UN report says

UNITED NATIONS—THE WORLD economy has been growing more slowly after global unemployment jumped to 6.3 percent last year, the highest in a decade, the United Nations reported.

Because it is the world's largest economy, the United States and its weakening housing market are "the major drag for this global slowdown," said the UN report, released Wednesday.

It puts the expected growth of 2007 world gross product at 3.2 percent, down from an average 3.8 percent a year during the previous decade.

"We see a number of worrisome trends," said Sha Zukang, the UN's undersecretary-general for economic and social affairs.

"Globally, despite robust rates of economic growth, employment creation is lagging behind growth of the working-age population."

Some 195 million people were unemployed in 2006, an increase that despite continued growth in global economic output is "giving rise to the phenomenon of jobless growth," the report said.

The global labor pool comprises about two-thirds of the 4.6 billion people of working age, which the UN puts at 15 and older.

In the decade ending in 2006, the global unemployment rate rose to 6.3 percent, up from about 6 percent, according to the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Conference on Trade and Development and five regional commissions.

Zukang said these were the latest available UN statistics.

The UN economists said that for the first time in history, the service industry, accounting for 40 percent of all jobs, overtook agriculture as the biggest employer.

"The world is rapidly becoming an economic system with employment dominated by the service sector, in which many jobs are low-paying and precarious and are not covered by formal mechanisms of social protection," the report said.

It said the unemployment rate was highest, at 12.2 percent, in the Middle East and North Africa, followed by 9.8 percent in sub-Saharan Africa, 8 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, 6.6 percent in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and 6.2 percent among developed nations' economies. *AP*

Fire shuts key Canada-US pipeline, oil leaps $3

HOUSTON—AN EXPLOSION HIT THE MAIN pipeline that supplies Canadian crude to US Midwest refineries on Wednesday, forcing operator Enbridge to halt nearly a fifth of US imports and sending crude prices $3 higher.

One of the set of four pipelines will require repairs and regulator inspections, while the largest is "not likely" to start up any time soon, Larry Springer, a spokesman for Calgary, Alberta-based operator Enbridge Inc., said on Thursday.

The smaller two lines were several hundred feet from the fire and appear to be undamaged, but will be inspected soon before they are restarted, Springer said by phone.

Two employees were killed in the incident, which came after one pipeline was shut to inspect a small leak.

The explosion about 3 miles (4.8 km) southeast of its Clearbrook, Minnesota, terminal, shut down a line that carries an estimated 1.9 million barrels per day (bpd) of Canadian crude, equivalent to about 9 percent of total US oil demand.

Oil prices roared more than 2 percent higher on the news, with traders fearing that the outage would leave mid-continent refiners short of crude.

US futures stood $2.81 higher at $93.43 a barrel, rebounding from Wednesday's fall.

"My initial impression is that (this) will put a halt to the slide in oil prices and put us back on the march towards $100 a barrel," ANZ senior commodities analyst Mark Pervan said. "The timing is pretty bad. We are coming to the strongest demand period for crude with the approach of the northern winter."

Canada is the biggest supplier of foreign crude to the United States, accounting for almost one-fifth of its over 10 million bpd of imports, government data show.

Nearly all of that is delivered via the Enbridge system.

Springer declined to give a specific timeframe for restarting the lines, but a spokeswoman for the county said the fire could burn for another three days.

"The area under fire now is 100 feet (30.5 metres) by 100 feet, it is anticipated to burn for up to three days," Jeanine Brand, county attorney and public information officer for Clearwater County, told Reuters by telephone.

Enbridge was not able to say what caused the blast but said it was working with federal and state authorities to begin a thorough investigation.

A lasting disruption to Lines 3 and 4—which combined pump over 1.1 million bpd of mainly heavy and medium crude—would put a strain on landlocked Midwest refiners such as Flint Hills Resources, Marathon Oil Corp. and Koch Industries, which have few immediate alternatives to the Canadian supplies. *REUTERS*

Asian stocks rally on US rate cut hopes

Gold tracks crude prices, trades at $806 an ounce

SINGAPORE—ASIAN STOCKS rallied while the low-yielding yen and bonds struggled yesterday after comments from a top Federal Reserve official increased expectations of interest rate cuts to support the US economy.

The positive mood was set to extend to Europe, with financial bookmakers expecting shares to extend Wednesday's sharp gains.

Commodity prices rose, led by oil which jumped more than $1 on news of a pipeline fire disrupting Canadian supplies to the United States. US crude traded near $92 a barrel, up from Wednesday's two-week low of $90.33.

Gold which serves as a hedge against inflation and often tracks oil prices, also recovered some ground to trade above $806 an ounce.

Federal Reserve vice chair Donald Kohn signaled a willingness to lower borrowing costs, saying financial market turmoil could slow the US economy and the Fed had to be flexible.

His comments, which came just a day after two other Fed officials hinted they would not support a rate cut at the next policy meeting on Dec. 11, sent Wall Street stocks soaring. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 2.6 percent, its biggest percentage gain in four and a half years.

Asian markets followed suit with Tokyo's Nikkei average closing up 2.4 percent at a two-week high and the MSCI's measure of other Asia Pacific stocks climbing 3 percent by early yesterday afternoon.

The MSCI index is still some 10 percent off its Nov. 1 record high, but is up a third this year, triple the 10 percent gain for MSCI's key world stock index.

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A MAN using a mobile phone walks past a stock quotation board outside a brokerage in Tokyo. Japanese stocks powered up more than 2 percent on Thursday, with the Nikkei average hitting a two-week high. REUTERS

"Markets are jumping on relief there might be a rate cut at the moment," said Neale Goldston-Morris, head of equity strategy at Macquarie Equities in Sydney. "But there is still a lot of pain to go through. Until credit markets restore normality, it's hard to see equity markets making any consistent headway."

Bank stocks, recently pounded by worries about billions of dollars being written off in credit losses, led the rebound with Japan's Mitsubishi UFJ rising 6.1 percent and Citigroup jumping nearly 8 percent in Tokyo.

In Hong Kong, Ping An Insurance soared 7.3 percent after buying a stake in European financial services firm Fortis.

Resource stocks were back in favor following a recent slide touched off by worries about the outlook for global growth.

Among major markets in the region, Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index soared 4.1 percent, while Singapore's and South Korea's benchmarks jumped 3 and 2.3 percent respectively.

Rising stocks put the low-yielding yen under pressure. The dollar hit a one-week high against the Japanese currency overnight, before giving up some ground in Asian business to trade around 110 yen. The euro dipped below Wednesday's two-week high of 163.60 yen to around 163 yen and held above $1,48 after bouncing off the overnight low near $1.4710. *REUTERS*

Shopping slows in US, Fed says

WASHINGTON—THE US ECONOMY GREW at a slower pace in the late fall as shoppers watched their pennies heading into the busy holiday season.

The Federal Reserve's new snapshot, released Wednesday, suggested the strains from a severe housing slump and a painful credit crunch are affecting the behavior of individuals and businesses alike—making them somewhat more cautious.

Yet, the hope that the Federal Reserve will cut a key interest rate for a third time this year to energize the economy sent stocks soaring on Wall Street.

"Reports on retail spending were downbeat in general," the Fed survey said. "Most retailers said that they were expecting a slow holiday season, with only small gains in sales volumes compared with last year," the Fed added.

Spending by consumers and businesses is the lifeblood of the country's economic activity.

The big worry for economists is that consumers and businesses will cut back on spending and investing, dealing a blow to economic growth.

The odds of a recession have grown this year. Still, Fed officials and many other economists remain hopeful the country will weather the financial storm without falling into recession.

The Fed report found the national economy continued to grow during the survey period of October through mid-November but at a "reduced pace."

Of the 12 Fed regions surveyed, seven reported a slower pace of economic activity, while the remainder generally pointed to "modest expansion or mixed conditions," the Fed said.

The findings will figure prominently into discussions when Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke and his colleagues meet on Dec. 11 to decide their next move on interest rates. Investors and some economists believe the Fed report, along with recent turbulence on Wall Street, would justify another rate reduction.

"The Fed realizes markets are fragile, and the ongoing dislocations we expect will lead the (Fed) to ease on Dec. 11," said T.J. Marta, fixed income strategist at RBC Capital Markets.

Fed governor Donald Kohn, in a speech Wednesday, warned that if the financial turmoil seen in recent weeks were to persist, it could further crimp the flow of credit to people and businesses, raising risks to economic growth. *AP*

AIG eyes consumer finance, acquisitions in South Korea

SEOUL—INSURER AMERICAN International Group is interested in expanding into consumer finance in South Korea and may buy Korean companies to grow its businesses, the head of its Korean life insurance unit said on Thursday.

AIG, the world's largest insurer by market capitalization, runs life and non-life insurance, investment and real estate operations in South Korea.

Now the US firm is eyeing other financial services businesses in the East Asian country and is studying launching a holding company, Sang Hui Lee, president and CEO of American International Assurance Korea told Reuters in an interview.

"The group is interested in other businesses here... it is definitely financial businesses," said the 39-year-old CEO.

When asked about the segment the US group is looking at, he added: "consumer finance."

AIG has recently launched a mortgage guarantee business in Asia's fourth-largest economy, called United Guarantee, for small-sum mortgage insurance.

Consumer finance, including instalment financing and leasing, is a relatively untapped market in South Korea as only small-sized companies have seen potential in it up to now.

With the once high-flying credit card business mature and lending margins contracted, top Korean banks and foreign companies, including Kookmin Bank and GE Capital of General Electric, have been training their sights on consumer finance. *REUTERS*

Capital flow to Asia to anchor currencies

SINGAPORE—WEAKER global demand may slow Asia's exports next year but analysts say that won't depress Asian currencies, which will be pushed up by capital inflows spurred by healthy economic growth and lower US interest rates.

Most Asian currencies have retreated since the start of the month as foreigners sold local stocks, led by a 3 percent slide in the South Korean won, but analysts say the region still offers attractive returns, so foreign money will return.

"So long as the US economy does not slip into recession, Asian currencies should still appreciate as they will still be attractive in relative growth terms," said Claudio Piron, senior currency strategist at JP Morgan.

Demand from Europe is still strong, but exports to the United States—Asia's main market—have slowed and economists believe that trend will continue next year as the US economy buckles under the weight of housing and credit market problems.

But currency strength is not determined solely by exports.

The US Federal Reserve cut its main interest rate by 0.25 percentage point in October after a half-point cut in September.

Citigroup economist Yiping Huang said the Fed was likely to cut the fed funds rate by another point in coming months, widening the differential with Asian countries, which have mostly left rates unchanged despite the global financial turmoil.

The US fed funds rate of 4.5 percent compares with official rates of 8.25 percent in Indonesia, 7.75 percent in India, 5.5 percent in the Philippines and 5 percent in South Korea. *REUTERS*

BRISK EXPORTS

Japan's industrial output rise 1.6%

TOKYO—JAPAN'S INDUSTRIAL output rebounded 1.6 percent in October as factories stepped up production of cars and electronic goods to meet brisk demand overseas, the government said Thursday.

The increase helped to allay concerns about the impact on Asia's largest economy of the US subprime loan crisis as strong shipments to China and the rest of the region offset slack demand from the United States, analysts said.

"The report shows that economic fundamentals remain healthy and will continue to improve moderately, supported by solid business investment overseas," said Credit Suisse economist Satoru Ogasawara.

It was the first rise in two months, coming after a fall of 1.4 percent in September, and roughly in line with market forecasts for a 1.7 percent gain.

"Industrial production is on a moderately upward trend," the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said.

The output index reached 112.1, the best level since current records began, up from a previous peak of 111.9 in August, a ministry official said.

But the rebound was well below the 3.8 percent rise projected by the ministry a month ago as construction goods makers reduced production to deal with dwindling housing construction in Japan.

Housing starts have been plummeting at double-digit pace since July due to the introduction of tighter building rules.

Year-on-year industrial output increased 4.7 percent in October, lifted by brisk production of general machinery, transport equipment and electronic parts and devices, the report said.

"Such stellar performance by manufacturers, aided by strong demand from Asia, is a rare bright spot in the domestic economy now," noted Morgan Stanley economist Takehiro Sato.

But he added that generally weak US economic data was "a growing concern."

Japan's production of transportation equipment surged 5.1 percent in October following a drop of 4.8 percent in September, largely due to strong overseas demand for passenger vehicles, the report said.

Automakers have also been boosting output to make up for stoppages caused by a major earthquake earlier in the year.

Electronics exports meanwhile were supported by strong demand for high-tech products such as flat-panel televisions.

Output is likely to continue to zigzag higher, dropping by 1.7 percent in November before rising 3.2 percent in December, the ministry predicted.

Concerns about the impact on the Japanese economy of a US housing slump and related credit squeeze have abated following signs that strong shipments to the rest of Asia are propping up robust exports.

"What is notable is that the high-tech industry has greatly improved thanks to brisk exports to Asian markets," said Daiwa Institute of Research economist Keiji Kanda.

"Although there are worries about the US subprime loan sector, the real economy and consumption remain strong and at worst will make a soft landing. So Japanese output in the coming months is unlikely to be affected," he added.

But others warned that Japan's economy remained vulnerable to a global slowdown given the key role of exports in the domestic recovery.

If economic slowdowns in various parts of the world overlap one another, "Japan's fundamental output recovery model will easily crumble," Goldman Sachs analysts warned in a research note. *AFP*

Ad Congress delegate goes home with unexpected gift

FOR BERNADETTE BECARES, THE surprise she received while attending the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress could not have come at a better time. An advertising professor at the University of Santo Tomas, Bernadette had gone to the biennial industry event with her students to keep abreast with the evolving world of advertising and marketing. She could hardly believe her luck when she found out that she was also the recipient of a special gift.

"During one of the breaks, I went to the Smart Pentagon booth initially to inquire about the mobile handsets on display. I had been using the same mobile phone for the last five years, and the display sealed the deal for me to finally retire my old unit," Bernadette laughingly recalls.

The cellular operator had set up especially for the Ad Congress delegates the Smart Pentagon, the sleek and futuristic booth which showcased the most cutting-edge of Smart's products and services. Available for the delegates' free and unlimited use at the Pentagon was the new Smart Bro USB modem that could be plugged into a desktop or laptop, for instant access to the Internet anytime, anywhere. Delegates also experienced the amazing clarity and convenience of MyTV, the technology that makes TV viewing right in one's hands a most impressive reality. Others took advantage of the opportunity to catch up on office e-mail and stay connected through the high-speed Internet access via 3G, also at the Smart Pentagon.

"One of the promo girls at the Smart Pentagon invited me to join the electronic raffle, she said if I were really, really lucky, I could win the exact same phone I was looking to buy! Despite the long line of people in the raffle registration area, I fell in line and took my chance at that free phone," Bernadette added.

Before the last of the conference proper sessions was over, Bernadette received the good news: she was one of the 44 winners of the gadgets and other gifts that Smart had put up for grabs especially for Ad Congress delegates, and that she was taking home a brand-new Nokia N92 MyTV-capable handset.

"In all my 49 years, this is the first time I have ever won in a raffle. And what a grand prize it is!" Bernadette said.

The prize Bernadette won from Smart's raffle capped a very rewarding Ad Congress experience. "The Ad Congress has been educational and interesting, especially the highlight on new media as a more effective means to deliver brand messages. It has also been exciting, since I came across some of my old students, who are now successfully making their own marks in the advertising industry. It warms the heart to know I have mentored these successful individuals," Bernadette added.

LUCKY Ad Congress delegates proudly display the gadgets awarded to them by Smart. Shown are (from left) Jerome Almirante, Smart's product development/data services head; Bernadette Becares; Grace Quisias; Sheryl Tambis; Dianette Trajano; Zinia Avellaneda; and Kathryn Carag, Smart's mainstream acquisition department head.

Belo Essentials wins SM's 'Breakthrough Product of the Year' award

BELO ESSENTIALS, THE SKIN care whitening line launched by renowned dermatologist and cosmetic surgeon Dr. Vicki Belo, was recently recognized as the "Breakthrough Product of the Year" at SM Supermarket's Golden Cart Awards.

The Golden Cart Awards is considered the most prestigious award in the Philippine Supermarket Industry. It recognizes the Best Trade Leaders, and is given to partners who exemplify SM Supermarket's dedication for excellence in creating advancements in retail today.

Nominees in each category underwent a rigorous screening process by SM Supermarket's top management, led by its president Herbert Sy and AVP for marketing Annie Go.

The Golden Cart Award for "Breakthrough Product of the Year" is given to the most innovative product or product line recently launched in the market, backed up by the best marketing and advertising campaign. Moreover, the Belo Essentials line surpassed its targets and is now within the top 10 whitening products carried by SM Supermarket. This was achieved in just six months since the products were launched.

Cristalle Belo-Henares, managing director of Intelligent Skin Care Inc, accepted the "Breakthrough Product of the Year" award together with her team Greg Banzon, Erwin Reodique, Lerma Mendoza, Dodee Borja, and Dennis Guieb. The awarding ceremony was held Nov. 19 at the SM Science Discovery Center at the Mall of Asia. Guests were serenaded by Zsa Zsa Padilla, one of the celebrity image models of Belo Essentials.

Belo Essentials is a range of whitening products that carries the credibility and expertise of Belo. The range of products include Whitening Body Bar, Smoothening Whitening Body Bar, Whitening Face Wash, Pore Minimizing Whitening Face Wash, Whitening Lotion and Whitening Lotion with SPF15 and are now available in supermarkets, groceries and drugstores nationwide.

Clinically tested and carefully developed, Belo Essentials products have the unique Dermlight Skin System, a two-way whitening system that controls melanin production and prevents melanin transfer to the surface of the skin. Each product has a distinct benefit to help achieve luminous, healthy, and beautiful skin.

For more information, call the Belo Essentials hotline at 889-4724.

HERBERT Sy, president, Super Value Inc (SVI); Cristalle Belo-Henares (managing director, Intelligent Skin Care Inc; Greg Banzon, consultant, Erwin Reodique (national sales manager, ISCI), Lerma Mendoza (marketing manager, ISCI), Dodee Borja (R&D manager, ISCI), Anie Go (AVP for marketing, SVI), and Dennis Guieb (sales unit manager, ISCI).

AASA celebrates 20th year Dec. 15

In 1987, THROUGH THE INITIATIVE OF FR. WILLIAM H. Kreutz SJ, the Scholars for Scholars Scholarship Fund (SSSF) now known as Ateneo Alumni Scholars Association (Aasa) was established and formally set up through the Office of Admission and Aid. Ateneo scholars are now CEOs, brand managers, professionals, doctors, entrepreneurs, and leaders in the academe and NGOs. To mark their 20th year, Aasa is holding a thanksgiving and fellowship dinner on Dec. 15, 4 p.m. at the MVP Roofdeck, Manuel V. Pangilinan Center for Student Leadership (formerly Colayco Hall) inside Ateneo de Manila, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. This is a tribute to Fr. Kreutz who has devoted a big part of his life to helping the scholars. The anniversary get-together precedes two university events: a Holy Rosary to be led by former President Corazon C. Aquino at 8 p.m. and Simbang Gabi at 8:30 p.m. to be presided by Rev. Catalino G. Arevalo SJ with the Ateneo Chamber Singers as the choir, at the Church of Gesu. Attendees are encouraged to call event organizer Espresso Plus Marketing & Design at 425-1210, 408-4118, or e-mail ateneoscholars@yahoo.com or espresso_plus@yahoo.com. For more details, log on to www.ateneoscholars.com.

PNB TEAMS UP WITH CENTRAL COUNTRY ESTATE

The Philippine National Bank and Central Country Estate Inc (CCEI) recently formalized an agreement for the Overseas Bills Payment Facility through a MOA signing at the PNB head office in Pasay City. CCEI's biggest undertaking, The Lakeshore, is already officially accredited under the Own a Philippine Home Loan (OPHL) and Sure Home Loan (SHL) Programs of the Bank. The Lakeshore is a world-class residential lake resort community nestled in the heart of Mexico, Pampanga. Present during the MOA signing were (from left) The Lakeshore Country Club OIC Ivy Ann Mangio, CCEI chief financial officer Elena H. Ongkiko Santos; CCEI president and CEO architect Nestor S. Manglo; PNB president and CEO Omar Byron T. Mier; PNB FSVP and consumer finance sector head Jovencio B. Hernandez; and PNB SAVP and housing loan product manager Elmer M. Aquino.

CEMEX FOR LOADING RIGHT

Jennifer Jane Go, Manila North Tollways Corp (MNTC) senior manager for operations, maintenance, and assurance services, (right photo, center) explains to Cemex officials, haulers, and drivers how to properly distribute and maximize their cement cargo, to comply with the provisions of RA 8794, otherwise known as the anti-overloading law. At left are North Luzon Expressway enforcers supervising the use of NLEX-provided portable weighing scales, in a demonstration at the Cemex compound in Marilao, Bulacan. A maximum load limit of 13.5 tons per axle is allowed to keep the integrity of the road surface and assure the safety of motorists. Represented by Marvin Tiu, Cemex transport manager, and Clifford Tiu, Cemex quality safety group officer, Cemex requested a weighing demo from MNTC, builder-concessionaire of NLEX, in preparation for its forthcoming business expansion from southern to northern Luzon. As one of the top cement producers in the country and the world, Cemex now joins MNTC in its campaign to create public awareness on the anti-overloading law.

FINALLY, MWSS WATER FLOWS

Western Bicutan Watermain Services Association Inc (Webwasai) president Rodillo A. Zaragoza (2nd from left) recently turned over to Maynila Water Services the distribution of water in areas of Sambong and Sampaguita Streets in Taguig City. Before, residents were paying P65 per cubic meter from a deep well operator. Webwasai cooperative efforts reduced the price to P20. Taguig vice mayor George Elias (2nd from right) said, 'If only people can solve their own problems without being a burden to the city government, progress and development will follow. The work of Webwasai is commendable and is worth emulating.'

New Balance, Clark Freeport Zone up racing standards

NEW BALANCE AND CLARK DEVELOPment Corp (CDC) staged the most anticipated running event of the year-the New Balance Power Race 2007: The Next Level. And true to its claim, the New Balance Power Race delivered in bringing participants' running experience up to the next level!

Out of 1,380 registered participants, 1,011 runners toed the starting line that early Sunday morning. Of which, 536 participated in the 25km footrace, all of them were timed using the RFID Timing Chip, where participants were asked to wear a neoprene band with a timing chip around their ankles. The chips record the runners' time when they pass through sensors/pads at the finish line. This provides a more efficient time monitoring and recording for a faster processing of results. That is also the reason why New Balance Power Race: Next Level prided itself as a technologically advanced run as it used the RFID Timing Technology. While 475 runners took on the 10km challenge in a more traditional but automated timekeeping system that was implemented in the said category.

What set the New Balance Power Race: The Next Level apart from other races in the county is the beautiful and scenic course that treated runners to a smog-free, well-paved and even tree lined roads in Clark. Organizers and sponsors teamed up to provide all participants a safe and comfortable run from start to finish. With a hot and sunny day greeting the runners at the race course, aid stations were located strategically every 2kms which made available for runners medical assistance, an adequate supply of cold drinks (Viva Mineral Water and Powerade Sports Drink), as well as Dole bananas for that extra energy boost. And at the finish line, all were treated to a finisher's recovery bag, which contained Dole bananas; Viva Mineral Water; Powerade Sports Drink; Alaxan FR Gel and Capsule; Phiten Tapes, Johnson & Johnson Band-Aids and Alcohol, Fitness First Towel, and Circulan.

This race brought together different personalities, celebrities and people from all walks of life who came from all over. Among those who participated in this marathon race were Senator Pia Cayetano and entrepreneur Fernando Zobel de Ayala, who joined the 25K category and TV Host Tricia Chiongbian.

Present at the awarding were Planet Sports Inc president Anton Gonzalez and general manager Danilo Dela Pena, CDC president Levi Laus, CDC Tourism Manager Noemi Garcia, New Balance brand manager Bing Buenaventura and Eric Imperio, Extreme Multi-Sports Race technical director.

The New Balance Power Race Next Level is in cooperation with Clark Development Corp, and in partnership with Planet Sports, The Athletes Foot, Coca-Cola, Powerade Viva Mineral Water, DOLE, Phiten Tapes and Accessories, Banco De Oro, Globe, Alaxan FR, Johnson & Johnson, McDonalds, San Mig Coffee, Fitness First, Finix Corp, Circulan; and media partners Action & Fitness, Speed Magazine, Metro Active, Maxim Magazine, Menshealth and Jam 88.3.

SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE DEAL

Lehman acquires UCPB bad assets worth ₱8.68B

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By Doris C. Dumlao

UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK has sold P8.68 billion worth of bad assets to American investment banking giant Lehman Brothers through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) deal.

UCPB yesterday announced that Lehman Brothers Asian Investment Ltd. had won the right to acquire its bad assets after the bank held a public SPV auction.

The buyer will pay 20 percent of the bid price next week and the balance by March next year.

Under the SPV Law, fiscal incentives are offered to banks to encourage them to engage in wholesale asset transfers, enabling the institutions to clean up their books and free up more funds for lending.

Also, the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and expanded value added tax are waived, while the registration/transfer fees are reduced by 50 percent.

SPV deals usually give the buyers of bad assets a large discount from the book value. The pricing is never officially disclosed.

UCPB first vice president Franco Magalong said the transaction would reduce UCPB's nonperforming assets by 40 percent to P12.11 billion.

The auctioned assets consisted of P2.05 billion of nonperforming loans and P6.63 billion of real and other properties acquired (Ropa).

Ropas are properties that a bank acquires through foreclosure, or *dacion en pago* (payment in kind), to settle soured loans.

The level would have been lower if we take out the P2.4 billion of Ropa that we have placed under joint venture, and the P3.8 billion of other Ropa that we have sold on installment but not yet taken off the bad asset list pending completion of the documentation of the sales," Magalong said.

Net of the Ropa under joint venture or sold on installment, UCPB's nonperforming assets would stand at only P5.91 billion at the end of the year, he pointed out.

Magalong added the bank was currently negotiating four property joint venture agreements, which should bring down the bank's level of nonperforming assets by an additional P1.2 billion.

This was the second time the bank had held a sale. In 2005, the bank sold P11.5 billion in bad assets to Avenue Capital Management Asia.

PNOC-EDC's gov't fee on guaranteed loans raised

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE has revised the fee that PNOC-Energy Development Corp. has to remit to the government for guarantees on loans the company has yet to settle.

In a letter to PNOC-EDC president and chief executive Paul Aquino, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the revision was the result of further discussions on the proposed increase in guarantee fee, following the government's divestment of its stake in PNOC-EDC.

While the government guarantee would remain in effect even after PNOC-EDC's privatization, he said the guarantee fee would increase from one percent per annum to 2 percent a year from January 2008 to December 2010.

Beginning January 2011, there would then be an annual increase of 0.25 percent, up to a maximum of 3 percent a year, unless the guaranteed loans are earlier refinanced, he added.

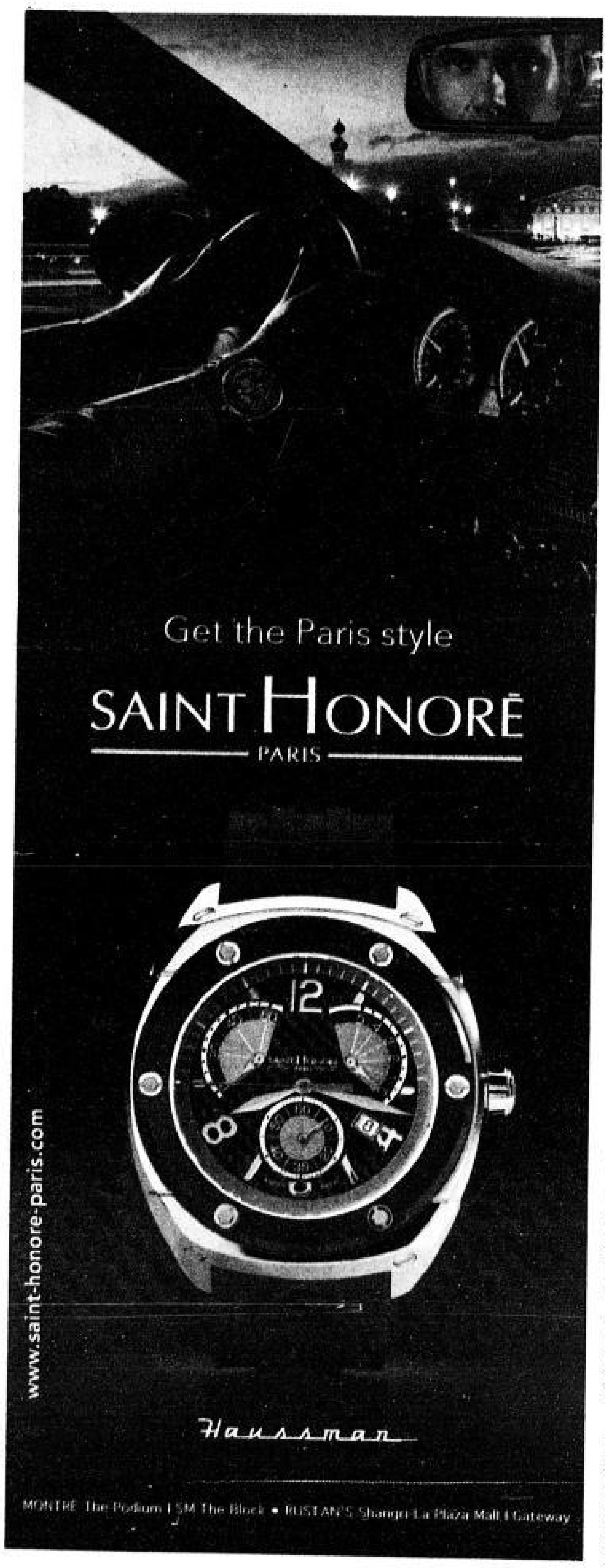
The earlier proposed cap on the fee was placed at 5 percent.

Red Vulcan Holdings Corp., a consortium composed of First Gen Corp., Spalmare Holdings BV and Prime Terracota Holdings Corp. yesterday remitted its P58.5-billion payment for its purchase of the government's remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC-EDC.

The consortium last week edged out three other prequalified bidder-groups for the PNOC-EDC stake, two of which did not even meet the government-set floor price of P45.08 billion.

In an earlier interview, First Gen chief finance officer Francis Giles Puno said the win was strategic for the company, as it aimed to further expand its foothold in the country's energy sector.

Financing for the purchase would come from the remaining proceeds of First Gen's initial public offering, as well as from bank borrowings, Puno added.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Pall Mall maker claims to be victim of flawed excise tax system of gov't

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT IS SAID to be losing about P25 billion in potential revenue collection each year due to the "unfair" excise tax system that favors certain companies such as Fortune Tobacco of Lucio Tan and American firm Philip Morris Manufacturing Inc.

This is according to British American Tobacco (BAT), which claims that its Pall Mall cigarette brand has become a victim of the flawed excise tax system of the country.

"Let me tell you something: If Marlboro, Philip Morris and Winston are taxed at the rate that our competitors claim Pall Mall should be paying, then the Philippine government would be at least P25 billion a year richer," said Jeremy Flint, BAT's general manager, during a briefing yesterday.

Winston is a Fortune Tobacco brand, while Marlboro is owned by Philip Morris.

Pall Mall, a relatively new brand from BAT, is supposed to be levied the highest excise tax rate of 26.06 per pack from only P6.74 per pack.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue last February ruled that Pall Mall should be taxed using the highest rate because the brand used to be imported by Duty Free shops. The BIR said the P6.74 per pack tax was inappropriate, adding that imported brands are imposed the highest tax rate.

The Department of Finance, mother agency of the BIR, had overturned the BIR's decision.

The DOF noted that Pall Mall importation ended last year, and that domestically produced Pall Mall was already in the market prior to the importation done by Duty Free shops.

BAT said that Philip Morris, Marlboro and Winston are also being sold at Duty Free shops, but they are not being asked to pay the highest excise tax rate.

But he also pointed out that Philip Morris and Marlboro are currently subjected to an excise tax of P10.88 per pack, while Winston is levied P6.74 per pack.

"Fortune and Philip Morris do not want competition that will force them to provide better quality and more innovative products to their consumers at competitive prices," Flint said. "They want a sign hung on the door that says 'Private Party: Competitors Go Home.'"

Flint said that Pall Mall only has less than one percent share of the market, while the brands of Fortune and Philip Morris enjoy a significant share of the market.

But even then, he said, the two companies have been pressuring government to implement policies against relatively new brands in the market, including Pall Mall.

The DOF has conducted a review of its decision to overturn the BIR's ruling.

The DOF has asked for a position paper from the BIR and from industry players, including BAT, before it passes a resolution on the matter.

The excise tax issue has reached the concern of legislators, and Congress have scheduled hearings on cigarette taxation.

RP needs bioengineered trees to meet demand

By Amy R. Remo

A BIOTECHNOLOGY EXPERT from the Department of Agriculture said the Philippines soon would need to plant genetically engineered trees if it were to meet the country's timber, pulp and paper requirements.

According to Dr. Saturnina Halos, the volume supplied by planted trees range from 62 percent to a high of 92 percent from 2000 to 2005.

The government is now mulling over the establishment of 40,000 hectares of commercial plantations a year—or a total of one million hectares over the next 25 years—to save the remaining forest cover from extinction and meet the country's timber demand during the period, Halos said.

"There is a need for government to prepare for the inevitable, which is the introduction of genetically engineered trees with superior traits in the Philippines," Halos told guests at the recent Seminar on Forestry Biotechnology.

Genetically engineered trees refer to industrial, nonfood trees modified by DNA technology.

Halos said one such species that may be introduced in the Philippines is *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, which is genetically engineered for "bioremediation" of soil contaminated with heavy metals.

She explained that this particular species may be suitable in polluted mining areas.

However, Halos said, the Philippines has no specific policy for genetically engineered trees, thus, requiring government to review its biosafety policy options.

The latest Food and Agriculture Office report showed that genetically engineered trees are currently being developed in 35 countries, with China leading the development.

China now has the most number of genetically engineered species under field trials and is the only country that has commercially released genetically modified trees.

It has to date, planted about one million insect-resistant GM trees.

The Philippines, however, has yet to conduct research and development for these purposes.

Worldwide, there are already at least 32 genetically engineered species and hybrids of trees being grown in field trials in Canada, China, Finland, the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Norway, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Brazil and Portugal.

Traits like insect and herbicide resistance are being introduced to several tree varieties.

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RP has too much advertising clutter

Study shows country has longest ad load per hour of TV show in world

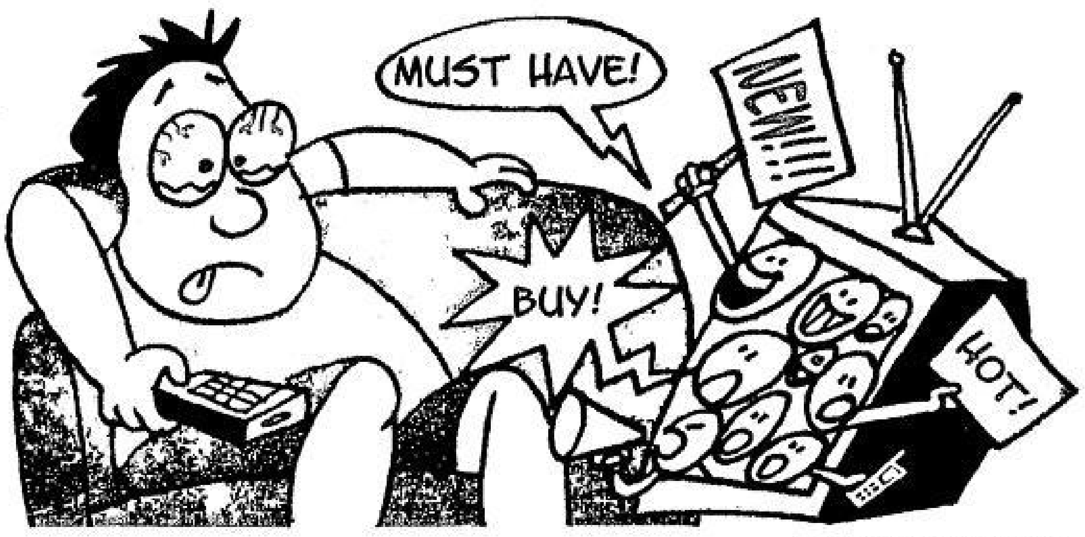
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ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Willy E. Arcilla
Contributor

ONE OF THE SIGNIFICANT IMplications of the theme of the recently concluded Advertising Congress—The New Order—is the need to reduce advertising spending and clutter in the country.

Christopher Prox, managing director of Icon Brand Navigation Group, an integrated marketing firm, revealed in a global study that the Philippines suffers from the longest commercial load per hour of TV programming in the whole world—20 minutes versus the Asian and European averages of 12 minutes, while even the US has been trying to trim down their load from 16 minutes as they realized viewers were getting turned off (judging from the increasing popularity of TiVO, a TV recorder that can skip commercials).

Print and outdoor ads are not exempt either as Mindshare's James Chadwick showed that the average Filipino adult is exposed to 1,027 ad messages per week—also among the highest in the world.

Not surprisingly, the Icon research concluded that the level of unaided advertising awareness and related content recall dropped off precipitously in a directly inverse proportion to an increasing amount of commercial load. If one is to translate these (over)loads into peso revenues, the realization is the Philippines is an economy spending a disproportionate amount of money on advertising—P150 billion for 2006 alone (only on mass media and excluding immeasurable forms like merchandising and below-the-line promotions and events which can easily double the ad and promo spending to P300 billion based on our rule-of-thumb). The billions of pesos of ad spending in the past decades might be partly responsible for the strong consumptive culture of Filipinos.

Think about the decades of commercial "bomb-ad-ment" that have indoctrinated Filipinos to buy all we can—eat all you can, bottomless drinks, shop-till-you-drop, 24/7 call-and-text, charge-all-you-can and now even fly all you can.

Is it any wonder therefore that the country's private consumption expenditures constitute the biggest element of its GDP reaching as high as 70 percent? This matches the heavily indebted Americans, first-world economy, but significantly higher than the Asian average. Yet the Philippines' domestic savings rates and private domestic investments are among the lowest in Asia. This may also explain why OFW families end up without adequate savings despite years of steady dollar remittances.

As keynote speaker John Gokongwei once quipped in a separate occasion, "we are a nation that produces nothing and consumes everything." If China is known as the "superfactory of the world," the Philippines must be the "supermarket of the world," where Filipinos buy virtually everything—an unsustainable economic development model, and simply unwise.

Filipinos need to spend less and save more, to be more of producers and not just consumers. Unbridled ad spending may also contribute to the country's worsening culture of materialism, which without proper guidance, can lead to an erosion in morality manifested in envy and covetousness, as shown in dishonesty in school tests and even TV game shows, in national elections and tax declarations. In the extreme, it can also lead to criminality and violence, and even in the rampant graft and corruption of civil servants who aspire for but cannot afford the tempting luxuries from the relentless indoctrination of glamorous ads that goad them to "live up with the Joneses" on their shoestring wages.

It is not enough to say the country needs less media spending however, because advertisers may object if denied their constitutional right to promote their products and services. The reduction in media spending must be accompanied by a dramatic and consistent improvement in the quality and effectiveness of advertising executions. This is what bang-for-the-buck is all about.

Great ideas brought to life in excellent executions will stand out in the crowd and require less media spending; they will influence consumer attitude and drive behavior more effectively and efficiently. Great advertising is not false over promises, as consumers will quickly realize it and penalize us, and neither is great advertising sheer share-of-voice as audiences will zap and tune out.

Excessive advertising is making it increasingly difficult to break through the commercial clutter, which itself becomes rationale for even more media spending. Add to this the common mistakes of wrong brand

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Keeping fit and in tip-top shape the C2 Life way

C2 LIFE CONCLUDED THE FIRST leg of its life-enriching program, which featured conventional and alternative forms of physical activities that promote fitness and fun. Participants included C2 enthusiasts from all over Metro Manila, as well as health buff models and celebrities.

The month's theme focused on how to keep the body in top condition. C2 Life first held a Taichi class at the UP College of Human Kinetics gym in Diliman where participants, among them young star Nancy Castiglione, learned the basics of the ancient Chinese regimen. Taichi expert Karl Go demonstrated how Taichi's dance-like movements could effectively burn calories and boost one's resistance. Another age-old discipline was highlighted, this time courtesy of Tristan Choa of Bikram Yoga Manila who guided the participants through the relaxing and rejuvenating techniques of yoga. Seen sweating it out inside the heated Makati studio was TV personality Angel Jacob who practices yoga to maintain her trim figure.

A high impact workout session was next in the C2 Life itinerary, and participants trooped to Slimmer's World International in Pasay Road, Makati for two hours of rousing muscle toning. Joining the C2 fitness enthusiasts were celebrities Brad Turvey and Aiza Marquez, who both had a blast moving and grooving to the gym's trademark style in slimming.

An exotic belly dancing lesson capped off the first month of the C2 Life activities. Facilitated by professional dancer Jill Ngo-Crisologo of Peak Performance, the participants swayed their hips and undulated their torsos together with Regine Tolentino, Sam Oh and Jen Rosendahl. Belly dancing is fast becoming a popular form of exercise among today's active women, and it also helps boots their self-confidence. After a successful first leg, which stressed the importance of strengthening the core, C2 Life has prepared more activities centered on the other facets of living life to the fullest.

REGINE Tolentino

Bose's multimedia technology center

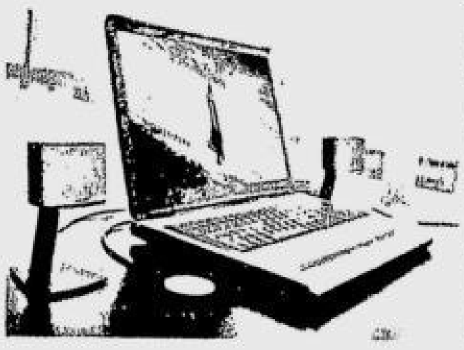
IT'S THE EMBODIMENT OF technological genius and innovative technology. Bose, the world's leader in sound technology, has set standards in multimedia systems once again with its Companion 3 and 5 Multimedia Speaker System. It is designed to complement and boost the audio qualities of your PC, MAC, DVD/VCD and portable music systems to another level.

Powered by the renowned and newly engineered Acoustimass Module coupled with two tiny speakers, the Companion 3 and 5 provides a full and rich sound quality that has been the enduring trademark of Bose sound technology. The speakers can also be mounted on any flat panel monitor or stand alone mode.

For starters, the Bose Companion 5 and Companion 3 Multimedia speakers are easy to use. Just connect the system to your computer's USB port and voila, you get an instant desktop theater system. Amazingly, it does not require an extra hardware, software or card upgrades. "It was designed to be simple to use and be user friendly. There are no adaptors needed or complicated wiring. Just a simple USB connection provides you a more thrilling and lifelike sound," explains Wilson So, president of Eleksis Corp, exclusive distributors of Bose in the Philippines.

Both Companion 5 and 3 multimedia speaker systems comes equipped with two desktop speakers and Bose's patented compact Acoustimass module. It is the heart and soul of the multimedia system and the Acoustimass is responsible for the special effects and superb lifelike surround sound. One can actually hear sound effects from areas where there are no speakers. The sounds seem to crawl around your work area. An advanced control pod puts volume and mute functionality at your fingertips, while providing easy connection to an additional audio input, such as a portable MP3 player or headphone jack for private listening. Aside from the sound, a plus factor of Bose's multimedia speaker systems is the stylish and sleek design, which makes it blend with your surroundings.

To experience and feel the sound engineering qualities of Bose audio and video products, visit their showrooms at the SM Megamall Building A, Lifestyle Wing of the Power Plant Mall, SM North Edsa and The Block, the Festival Supermall in Alabang and at the SM Mall of Asia, or call 724-9566/724-7527 or log on to www.eleksis.com.



PAREF WOODROSE WINS SONGWRITING TILT

The Ovation, an all-girls' band composed of Paref Woodrose students, won the grand prize in the recently concluded 'I Keep Love Real' national songwriting competition (high school category) with its original composition 'Something Better'. The event, titled 'Real Love Revolution', was organized by Educhild, Developmental Advocacy for Women Volunteerism, Intermedia Consultants, University of Asia and the Pacific's 'I am STRONG', and the Department of Education in conjunction with the 2nd International Congress on the Education of the Youth in Love, Sex and Life held Nov. 20 to 22 in Manila. Shown are the student grand prize winners from Paref Woodrose School: Front row (from left), Isha de Vera (violin) and Reg Reinoso (lead guitar, vocals and composer); second row (from left): Cassie Manalastas (lead vocals); Pamela Chan (back-up vocals) and Katherine Laureola (rhythm guitar).

FOOD STYLING EXPERT VISITS MANILA

World-renowned food stylist and veteran culinary professional Delores Custer (left) recently visited the Philippines and conducted a series of food styling workshops sponsored by Food magazine dubbed 'The Art of Food Styling and Presentation', in Cebu and Manila. The events were attended by Exatech Inc, distributor of GlemGas and Whirlpool brands in the Philippines, and participated in by local culinary professionals and enthusiasts. The New York-based Custer discussed various topics on food styling including photography, preparation techniques, sourcing of ingredients, plating and arrangement, and trends. She demonstrated food-styling and baking techniques using Whirlpool refrigerators and GlemGas cooking appliances. Both Whirlpool and GlemGas are known worldwide for their high quality appliances. For inquiries, call 712-0535.

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FATIMA DENTAL, HK UNIVERSITY FORGE MOU

Our Lady of Fatima College of Dentistry forged a 5-year memorandum of understanding with the prestigious Hong Kong University Faculty of Dentistry Nov. 18. The MOU was formally signed by Olfu Dean Arturo De Leon and HKU Dean Lakshman Samaranayake in Aberdeen, Hong Kong. The signing coincided with the 25th founding anniversary celebration of HKU's Faculty of Dentistry. The agreement provides both universities with the opportunity for collaborative teaching and research endeavors, faculty and student exchange grants, best practices consultation and benchmarking programs and other inter-institutional privileges and benefits. Olfu College of Dentistry has a standing International Agreement of Cooperation with the Kanagawa Dental College of Japan. This agreement, like that with HKU, provides programs that are highly beneficial to the universities; thus making Olfu College of Dentistry a provider of premier dental education in the Philippines. Olfu's College of Dentistry was recognized as the Top Performing School in December 2006.

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Globe

QYOUBEE INTRODUCED IN LAOAG

Globe, in cooperation with Quattro Broadband, participated in the OFW Family Fair held recently in Bonifacio Street, Laoag City. This event was held in parallel to the Taste of Kalihi festival in Hawaii. Consumers were able to try the service as their loved ones in Hawaii called them at the Globe and Qyoubee booth during the fair. Visitors to the booth who indicated their interest in having a relative in the United States learn more about Qyoubee had the chance of winning an Extreme Magic Sing microphone. This was awarded to Gerry Bautista of Laoag City. Qyoubee provides Filipino migrants in the States with a fast, convenient and inexpensive way of calling any of the millions of Globe or TM cell phones used by their loved ones in the Philippines today. Qyoubee is now available all over the United States. For more information, log on to www.qyoubee.com or call Qyoubee's customer service, toll-free, at 1-866-225-9032 in the States; 750-4400 in the Philippines. Shown are (from left, standing) Zeny Viray of Globe international sales, Chinky Buencamino of Paysetter, Julie Garingalao of Globe segment business group, comedian Chokoleit, Cecille Mariño of Globe segment business group, (seated, from left) Rheena Ozoa of Paysetter and Sandy Bello of Globe strategic communities, in the Qyoubee booth at the OFW Family Fair.

Manila Water program reaches 1M poor residents

SINCE IT WAS LAUNCHED IN 1998, "Tubig Para Sa Barangay" (TPSB) has now served more than 170,000 households or over 1 million people, according to Metro Manila east zone water concessionaire Manila Water Company.

One of Manila Water's pioneering initiatives and partly in response to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's appeal to accelerate access to water supply, TPSB aims to provide potable water supply to low-income and urban poor communities in Metro Manila's east zone.

"We used to get water from deep wells, where the supply is not enough and the water quality was a problem," related Armando Awa-ao, Barangay Lower Sto. Nino Homeowners Association president and one of TPSB's beneficiaries.

The program also meant no more waiting in line early in the morning for the residents or buying bottled water for safe drinking or paying for costly water deliveries.

The program's early success gave birth to the Lingap and Patubig Programs, which are expansions of TPSB designed to include public institutions such as hospitals, jails, orphanages, public markets, and schools, which all share common problems like inadequate water supply and dependence on unreliable deep wells.

To date, Lingap Eskwela has served almost 400,000 students from 151 schools, while more than 25,000 hospital employees have been aided by Lingap Ospital. Lingap Ampunan, Patubig sa Palengke, and Patubig sa City Jail have benefited over 10,000 orphans, vendors, and detainees.

Manila Water said they are still eyeing 100-percent water supply coverage in many areas especially in Rizal Province in the coming years, which means more pipe laying are expected just like in the past.

From 2002 to 2006, Manila Water has spent over P13 billion for pipe replacement, rehabilitation of water and sewerage infrastructure, development of new water sources and expansion projects.

OLL Child Guidance Center celebrates 50 Dec. 1

ONE OF THE FIRST PRESCHOOLS IN THE country, Our Lady of Lourdes Child Guidance Center on 121 D. Tuazon Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year with a grand alumni homecoming on Dec. 1 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the school grounds. Enjoy free henna tattoos, face painting, caricature sketching and so much more. There will be a variety show featuring Join the Club, Kontra Gapi and some of the latest bands, a fireworks display, and other activities for the whole family and barkada. For more details, call OLL Child Guidance Center at 740-1820 or 0922-8560053.

Talecraft: Storytelling for everyone

TALECRAFT, A NEW STORY-creation card game from Komikasi Enterprise, allows the imagination to wander, and gives people of any age the chance to weave wondrous stories about strange realms and colorful characters.

Conceptualized by Davao-born graphics designer Ria Lu, Talecraft explores the potential of one's creativity. The card game is divided into Genre (story type), Archetype (characters), and Keys (plotlines, keywords, and actions). Players pick a group of cards at random and tell a story based on the elements they get. The objective is to connect randomly picked genres, characters and keywords into one unified story, within five minutes.

Players create stories about genres they are sometimes unfamiliar with, or use characters they wouldn't normally think of, or try fitting keywords that seem to have no connection with each other. Players are therefore forced into a position where they have to think of a way to string all the items, familiar or otherwise, into one cohesive tale. This gives rise to fresher, more original tales.

The game is open-ended, which makes for a multitude of possibilities, as it aims to promote creative thinking through story-creation. Talecraft can be used as a party game, a way to exercise storytelling abilities, or a means to overcome writer's block.

"We believe that Filipinos are highly creative people. We're just offering a little push and a lot of fun," said Lu. "The limits that the picked cards set for the players prompt the use of resourcefulness, and the need to fit all the cards into a story stretches the imagination."

Talecraft is available at Booktopia, Neutral Grounds, Powerbooks, and selected Fully Booked and National Bookstore branches. In Davao, Talecraft can be purchased at Spro Coffee Shop and Pet Street Gallery. You can also log on to http://talecraft.komikasi.com.

ENERGY SECRETARY SPEAKS AT IIEE CONVENTION

IIEE national secretary Gregorio Y. Guevarra (left); VP for internal affairs Hipolito A. Leoncio (2nd from left), and national president Raymond A. Marquez (right) present the plaque of appreciation and token of gratitude to Department of Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes for being the guest of honor and keynote speaker during the opening ceremonies of the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines Inc (IIEE) 32nd Annual National Convention held Nov. 6 to 10 at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City.

FEATURES IN BRIEF

Chat with your mobile phone

SUN CELLULAR OFFERS A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO CHAT THROUGH THE CELLULAR PHONE with Sun iMessenger. The service allows one to send and receive unlimited messages with his AOL, ICQ, MSN, and Yahoo! Messenger contacts here and abroad for a low fixed rate.

With Sun iMessenger, you can be logged in to your IM account whenever and wherever. It works on any mobile phone. You just have to have an existing IM account and a Sun SIM (postpaid or prepaid) and text SUNIM to 2746 to register and automatically enjoy one day of unlimited Sun iMessenger access for free.

Subsequent charge is only P0.50 per message sent. Sun also have BUY DAY, a day's worth of unlimited Sun iMessenger at P20, BUY WEEK costs P100 for 7 days, or BUY MONTH to 2746 for a month of unlimited instant messaging.

For more information about Sun's iMessenger service, log on www.suncellular.com.ph or call Sun's 24-hour hotline at 395-8000.

BPO locator grows Eastwood City Cyberpark

THE EASTWOOD City Cyberpark is proving to be the country's leading information technology hub with more than 60 BPO locators amid Eastwood City's dining establishments and shopping centers. Each company that has made the Cyberpark its home, has its own success story.

One of them, NEC Toppan Circuit Solutions, tells of how their location is vital to their success.

NEC Toppan Circuit Solutions became the youngest subsidiary of NEC when it merged with Toppan, to design and manufacture printed wiring boards (PWB) in 2005. Both Japanese companies, NEC is one of the Top 20 companies in the world responsible for semiconductors and microchips in computers, cellular phones and other electronics, while Toppan was Japan's first and biggest printing company.

NEC Toppan set up shop at the Cyber One building, Eastwood City Cyberpark for the PWB design in April 2005, and has been steadily growing ever since.

"We started with 20 employees, after our first year, we doubled to 40. Last year, we added 30 plus employees," Annie Furukawa, human resources department and administration manager, says. "This year, 11 more came in. There are around 70-80 employees now."

Designing PWBs requires precision and specialization from their employees, all engineering graduates. All they require from their engineers are experience with CAD, the basics of electronics, how to read schematics and perhaps knowledge on how to make a simple layout design. NEC Toppan provides all the training to enable them to design a PWB based on strict Japanese standards.

New employees undergo training during their first six months. Then they go through three months of on the job training where they join a team to participate in the actual design process. In their second year, the engineers who excel are sent to Japan for three to 12 months for further training. All of their senior engineers are required to speak Japanese. Part of the training syllabus is the basic 150 hours of Japanese language class. Employees are encouraged to take JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) and Furukawa boasts they have level 3 and 4 passers already. When they pass, they get a language benefit in their salary, not to mention another skill for their resumes.

Furukawa explains the nature of their work: "What we do is stressful, very mentally challenging. When you design PWBs, it's like solving a maze. The client gives you a list of components that you, as a designer, would have to fit on the required board. That's why we're called solution providers."

NEC Toppan requires a lot from their engineers—overtime is expected, as much as dedication and hard work are needed to excel in this industry. To lessen the stress on their engineers, and also an indirect way of increasing productivity, NEC Toppan took into consideration factors that would help make life easier for their employees, including the location of their offices and even corporate social responsibility.

For this reason, the president of NEC Toppan specifically chose Eastwood City Cyberpark for the location of their office. NEC Toppan, in keeping with NEC's practice of corporate responsibility, has a MDD (Make a Difference Day) where they spearhead community service events in Eastwood such as this year's blood drive for the National Kidney Institute with the support of Eastwood City's developer, Megaworld Corporation, and the other Cyber One building locators. All of their employees participate in community service, especially in assisting in natural calamities, and they regularly donate to Give a Life Foundation in the form of medicines and ambu-bags.

"You nurture the compassion in the employees," Furukawa explains. "And if you have compassionate employees, then that's a good thing."

Furukawa points out that they have got everything that they need here. The shuttle service solves their engineers' transportation problems because it takes them directly to and from Eastwood to the train stations. The many eating establishments provide a lot of options for them during their breaks and after work. One of the added bonuses is that Eastwood is pet-friendly. Their company president has a very special dog that he takes with him to the office. The dog, in turn, gives a lighter atmosphere to their busy workplace. "In Japan, some companies are already practicing having pets in the work place to lessen the stress of the employees," Furukawa says.

This is the new work culture that is being espoused and lived out in Eastwood City—where everything is within reach from the offices and work easily segues into leisure. After all, a healthy combination of work and play creates better productivity that ensures any company's success in the long run.

Mama Sita's invades Taiwan

MARIGOLD Commodities, makers of Mama Sita's Mixes and Sauces, continues to expand its global presence when it recently conducted the "Taiwan Invasion" a product launch-cum-product demo of its famous products. The food blitz also introduced Kim's Easy and Authentic Seasoning and Sauces, which is produced by Sandpiper Spices and Condiments—the sister company of Marigold Commodities.

Mama Sita's delegation was led by Adolfo Reyes, head of Marigold Commodities special projects (International Division), and wife Perry Zulueta-Reyes.

RP has too much ...

From page B2-1

positioning, off-strategy campaigns or mediocre executions which, by nature will require even more media spending to create any form of marketplace impact, and what you possibly have are the ingredients for a vicious cycle of rising adspend that can spin out of control.

British fiction/comic writer Neil Gaiman, a speaker during the congress, opined, "Advertising can be incredibly useful when well-done, but very irritating when badly done."

For the Philippine economy, bad ads are not only irritating but a waste of scarce corporate budgets. Net, the Philippines needs less media spending and more effective creative. Wayne Fletcher of Universal McCann Sandbox admonished delegates to "suspend notions of ad distribution" in seeking true media integration, and he cited a senior Nike executive's remark, "We're not in the business of keeping media companies alive. We're in the business of connecting with consumers." But media companies are also beginning to realize they cannot abuse commercials to the detriment of their viewers and readers, listeners and surfers. The screening of the 2007 Cannes Lions winners by the INQUIRER provided an inspiring reel of TV ads and series of prints that were relevant and refreshing, provocative and stimulating, intelligent and humorous.

Christopher Prox also confirmed in his survey that the top performing executions suffered less from the negative effects of commercial clutter versus the vast majority of "normal" ads.

Instead of spending more on advertising and promotions next year, try raising salaries and wages or sharing corporate profits with your employees and watch them drive your revenues and cut costs because workers who are part owners are more productive.

Before we criticize our political leadership on issues of national interest such as massive poverty and income inequality, homelessness and landlessness, hunger and malnutrition, illiteracy and joblessness, graft and corruption, we need to step back and examine our own conscience with respect to the values we have been promoting as advertisers and marketers.

As we embrace a new order characterized by better creatives and less adspending, I invite industry colleagues to also unite in giving selflessly of their time, talent and treasure toward the loftier goal of nation-building. I believe if all 3,500 delegates (and all our colleagues) have the talent, skills and power to influence public perception and drive human behavior; educate society in values formation and build character, then we all have the collective obligation to do so. Imagine a concerted effort that brings to bear advertisers' strategic thinking and massive resources, agencies' creative genius and 360° IMC, and media's reach and responsible programming upon the noble task of nation-building.

A country whose leadership has been declared morally bankrupt will require a moral rehabilitation, and moral values will need to be communicated, dramatized, and reinforced in all forms of media in a consistent, systematic and sustainable manner. It can be done. This way the new order can move to a higher order.

(The author has 22 years of marketing, sales and general management across Asia-Pacific, managing 50 brands and is now president of Business Mentors Inc., a newly formed management consultancy firm, and concurrently regional director of ZMG Ward Howell Inc. Feedback willyarcilla@yahoo.com.)

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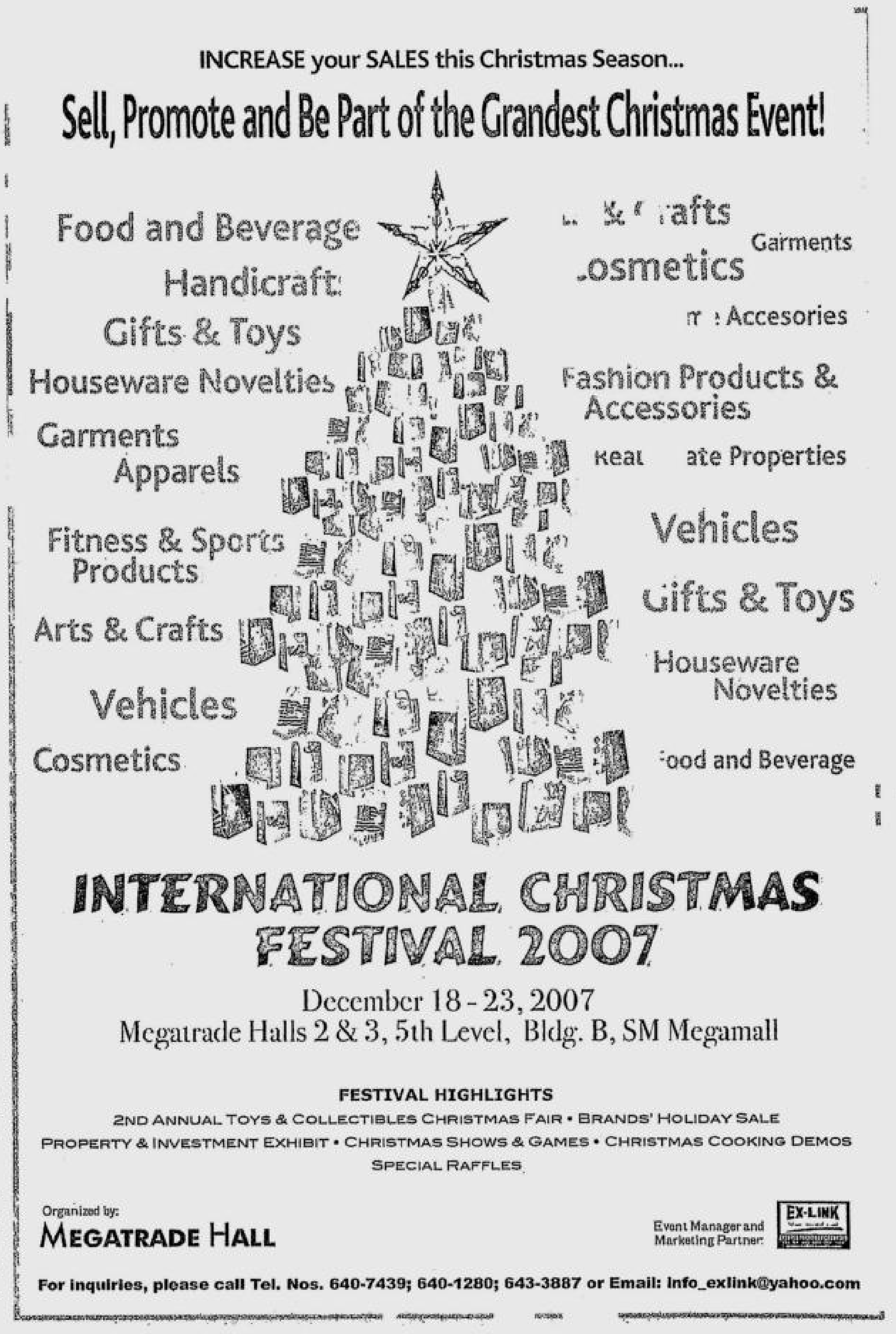
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Flight catering venture starts $2-M facility in Clark

CLARK FREEPORT—MIASCOR CATERing, Malaysian Airlines and Gate Gourmet, said to be the world's largest independent flight catering company, held groundbreaking rites on Tuesday for the construction of a $2-million kitchen at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

The operations of the Miascor Philippines joint venture "lends a big boost to the DMIA to attract regular and legacy airlines," says Bienvenido Manga, general manager of the DMIA and vice president for operations of the state-owned Clark International Airport Corp.

"Airlines doing long haul flights had hesitated to fly here because we don't have [flight catering] services," Manga said.

The joint venture's 3,000-square meter facility would be finished by April 2008, according to Mark Wall, Gate Gourmet's senior vice president.

The facility will produce 500 to 1,000 meals a day during the start-up period and increase the volume as work progresses, says Lars Fredrik Larsen, Miascor Catering general manager.

Manga says in the 25-year lease agreement, the joint venture targets to prepare 3,000 to 4,000 meals daily initially gradually increasing production to 6,000 to 10,000 meals daily.

The agreement respects the in-house flight catering contracts of individual airlines operating at the DMIA, he says.

Peter Andrist, Gate Gourmet vice president for business development, says the joint venture decided to locate in Clark "because we have good relations with the CIAC and we have good agreement on the table."

"We see a great future here. The runway is big. We are here and we are the first one to establish flight catering services here," Andrist says.

Discussions with the CIAC began three years ago, he says.

CIAC is the agency that oversees the conversion of the Clark airport from a United States military facility to an international gateway.

Manga says Philippine Airlines was planning to set up a flight catering facility here. It preferred to time its plan with CIAC's terminal expansion project.

CIAC has begun exploratory talks with Chinese financial and construction companies.

MABUHAY!
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
CLARK FREEPORT PHILIPPINES

THE FACILITY will produce 500 to 1,000 meals a day, increasing the volume as work progresses.

Wall says this was "absolutely [a] terrific time" to do business at the DMIA.

"The aviation industry is booming by 4 to 10 percent especially for long haul travel. There's more focus on premium passengers and airlines are making a 'wow' factor to differentiate them from competitors," he says.

Wall says Gate Gourmet, established in 1992, has attained global excellence by operating from at least 97 kitchens in 30 countries.

The Clark facility will be its second in the Philippines, after the one located at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. It will also be its 10th kitchen in the Asia-Pacific region.

Its culinary innovations, which have won several awards, bank on accredited chefs from all over the world. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Niche catering services: Mezze's new service

DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON WHEN Christmas parties are a-plenty, MEZZE Bistro+Bar MEZZE is ready to be both the place of choice, as well as to provide full-service catering for a vast array of special & corporate occasions, including weddings, cocktail parties, birthday, retirement parties and religious celebrations of an intimate and private character.

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MEZZE has the experience and the know-how—what with many a stunning event design and perfect execution of events for and on behalf of its customers and valued patrons—to help you throw that party that will surely hold party guests in total awe.

MEZZE of Greenbelt 2 in Makati blends services and cozy dining style with Southern European and Mediterranean dishes that are carefully prepared and cooked. It also offers an equally healthy way of dining which is the concept of small plate dining: small scale smorgasbord of tiny dishes. Call 7288895 for queries.

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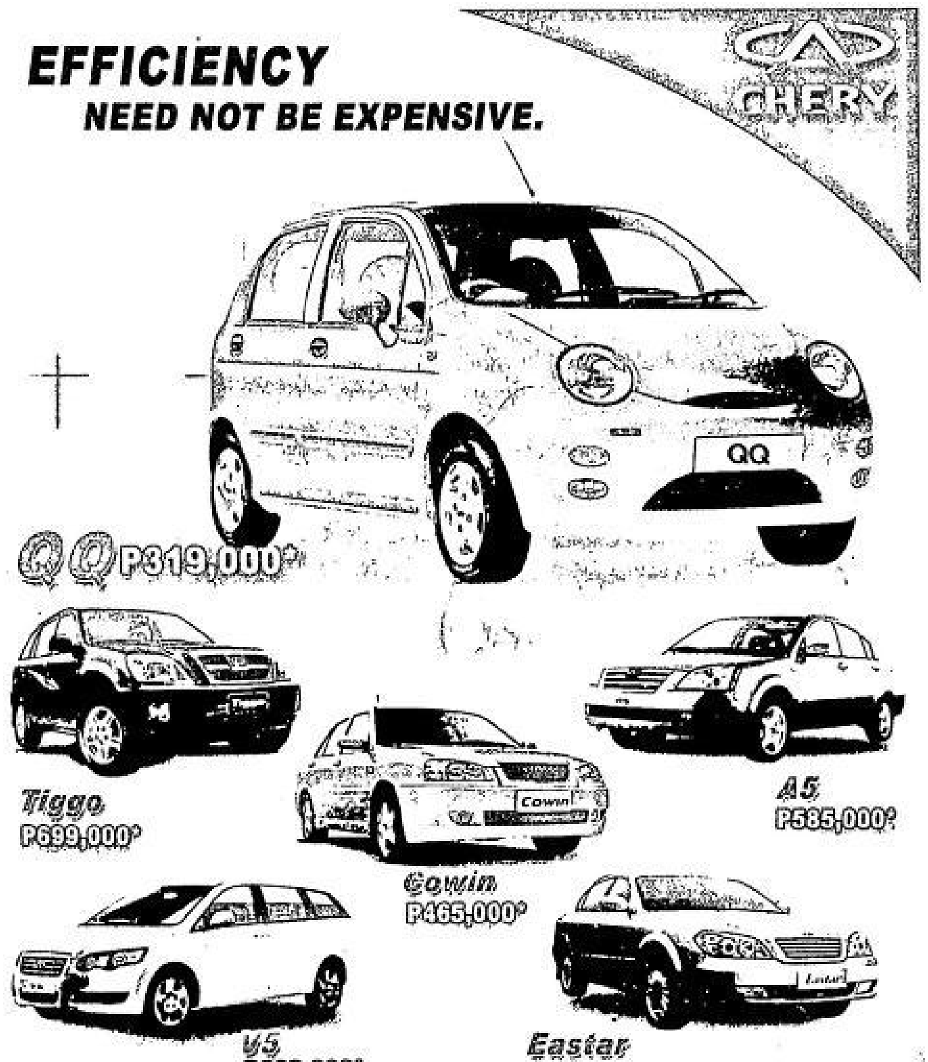
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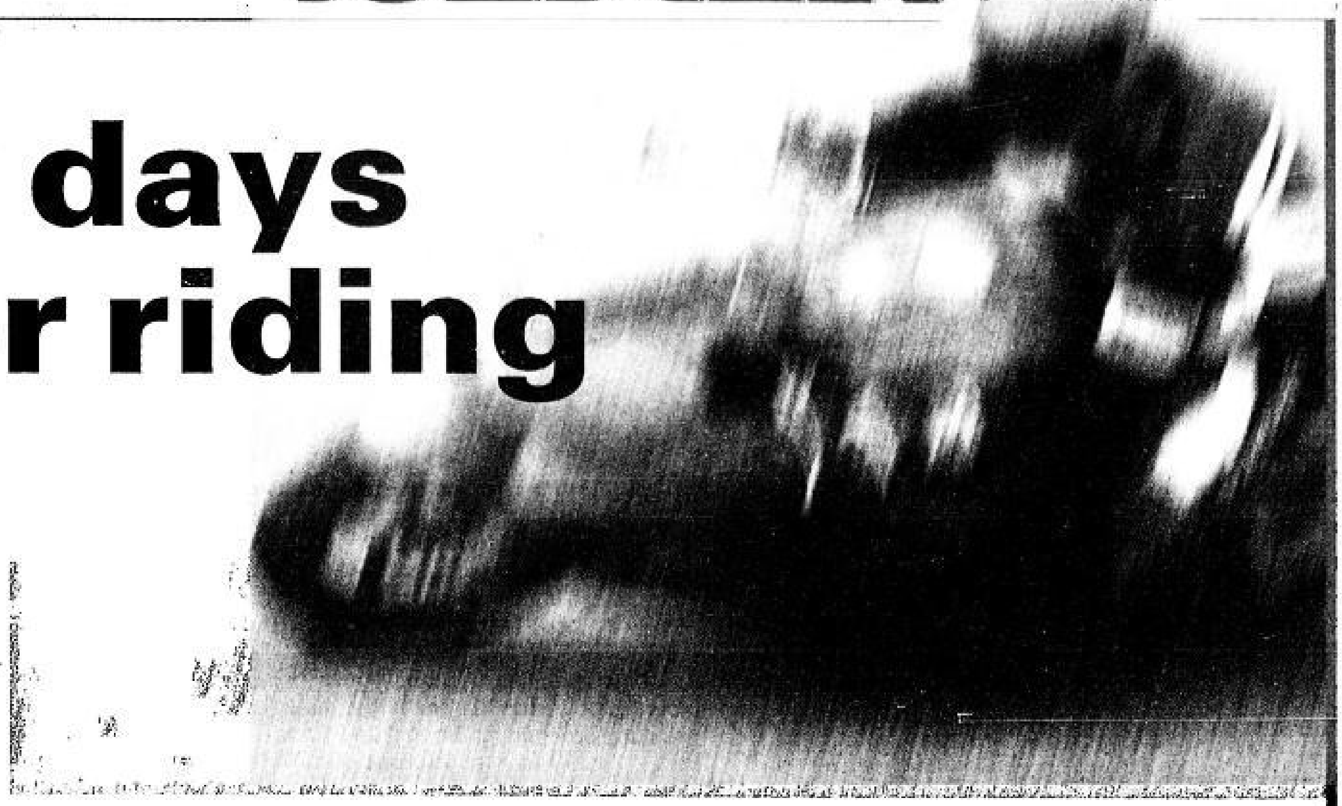
Rainy days are for riding



By Raymond Tribdino

I always loved riding in the rain. Aside from the certain edginess it gives, with the rider constantly finding that balance, maximizing traction and finding just that amount braking not to lock up, its just plain fun.

What is really mesmerizing about wet weather riding is synergizing determination and fun, because if you take away the fun factor, then in my opinion you also take away the safety margin.

Rain, rain, go away

Riding in the rain is enjoyable-with the key element being staying dry as much as possible. That means good rain gear.

Real wet weather gear, the kind that keeps you toasty even in a storm is a bit expensive for us mere mortals. Alpinestars, Joe Rocket, Oakley, Firstgear, Icon, Motoport offers water-proof suits with Gore-tex as the main material. The prices of these jackets can back you down from P8,000 to P20,000. Pricey as it is, the comfort you can get from a water-proof two piece jacket and pants is worth every penny.

Not to fret though, locally produced jackets and pants, like the ones made by OZ Racing, which run from P3,500 to P5,000, offer decent protection for most rainy weather sorties. It is a good idea to bring along a two-piece raincoat (choose yellow or green to be really conspicuous) that is a size smaller than what you normally choose. This is to make sure that the raincoat is tightly wrapped around your jacket and riding pants.

It is also a good idea to wear riding boots, or at least high-cut shoes not made of canvass. Keep your boots inside your raincoat or pants so rain water merely trickles out. Ditto for your gloves, keep the gauntlets inside the raincoat or jacket so water simply drips down instead of finding its way to your hands. And don't wear plastic bags over your shoes. This reduces the grip of your feet on the pegs.

A full face helmet is a must. Years ago, I put duct tape over the visor of my Bell Moto 3 to keep the rain out and donned Scotts goggles with breathable vents to keep the fog out. These days with the huge selection of full face helmets, it is impossible not to find something that would fit the budget. Just make sure you got real SNELL or DOT rating, not just stickers plastered on the back of the helmet. To make sure, read the labels inside, because labels carry a guarantee of safety. More often than not the genuine brand helmets offer rain weather invulnerability with real head safety.

There is nothing like Typhoon Milenyo to convince yourself of the advantage of a full-coverage helmet. I went out on my motard after Milenyo struck and took my open face MSR and goggles and regretted it. Rain drops are like little projectiles and can actually hurt at 65 kph. With the goggles I wore, my cheeks were soon sore from the needle-like pierces of rain drops.

Also never wear sun glasses to protect you from rain. It doesn't work. Same is true for tinted lenses. Since there is little sunshine (obviously) during a thunderstorm, vision is impaired by reducing frontal visibility. A full-coverage faceshield on an open-face helmet will block the rain drops. But it also lets more water get onto your face and drip down the inside of the shield of a full-face helmet. Use duct tape to cover the top of your helmet and wear the collar of your jacket up inside your helmet.

Staying comfortable is paramount to wet weather riding. Preventing water-logged socks or a soggy crotch will also reduce the distractions you get. And not like common thinking, wet weather is as bad as riding in the middle of the day with 40-degree ground temperatures. Water and wind will combine to create a chilly fatigue that erodes that mental edge you sorely need to stay ahead of the traffic around you.

Traction action

Once rain-proofed, there are two things to content traction and vision. Traction partners with balance, especially in the rain. Unless your name is Jolet Jao or Glenn Aguilar, these two things are a primary concern for most riders.

RAINY DAYS/ B3-2

> Real wet weather gear, the kind that keeps you toasty even in a storm, is a bit expensive for us mere mortals. Alpinestars, Joe Rocket, Oakley, Firstgear, Icon, Motoport offer water-proof suits with Gore-tex as the main material

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Noche Buena feasts for Auto Gas Excel users

Drivers who use liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) on their cars can have a truly merry Christmas with the newest promo from Seaoil.

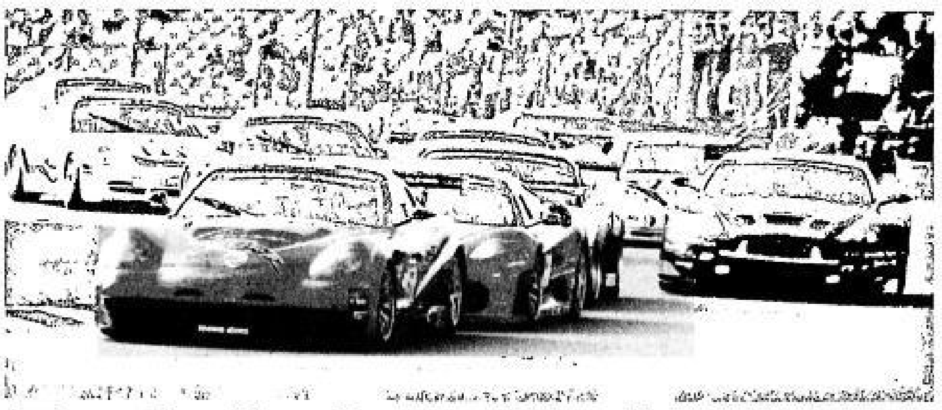
Dubbed "100 Pa-Noche Buena Mula Sa Seaoil," the promo allows lucky drivers to win Noche Buena packages for their loved ones this coming Christmas.

The promo is open to all Seaoil customers who would load up with Seaoil Autogas Excel. Every P500 single receipt purchase they make entitles them to one raffle coupon which they must fill up and drop at participating Seaoil stations.

Deadline for submission of coupons is Dec. 18. The draw will be held the following day and 100 winners will be picked.

Seaoil president Glenn Yu said this promo is Seaoil's way of thanking their customers for patronizing the Autogas Excel. "Most of our customers who buy the Autogas Excel are taxi drivers and these Noche Buena packages would mean a lot to them," he said.

Seaoil's Autogas Excel is available at the following stations: Edsa corner Quezon Avenue; North Fairview near Regalado Street; Gulod in Quirino Highway, Novaliches; McArthur Highway in Malabon; P. Guevarra Street in San Juan; Pasig Boulevard in Pasig; P. Tuason Street and Edsa in Cubao; Buendia Extension in Makati; Ususan in Taguig; and Mindanao Avenue and E. Rodriguez Avenue, both in Quezon City.



British racing heritage

In the realm of automotive racing, particularly in the British GT Championship (BTCC), having the technological edge can spell the difference between victory and defeat. Wheels play an important role as well because losing your grip on a crucial lap or corner of a race can lead to catastrophic results. This is why when it comes to performance, racing teams competing in the BGTC trust only one brand, Avon tires.

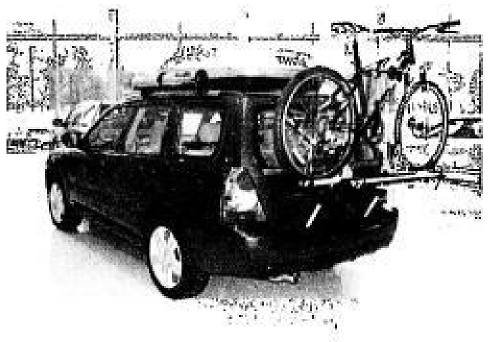
Exclusively distributed by Wheel Gallery, Avon tires provide you with an improved level of performance and sophistication derived from racing technology. "The superb grip of the Avon ZZ3 gives drivers plenty of advanced warning to slow down and provide a great feeling of confidence. For skilled drivers in a racetrack environment, this predictability allows them to drift their car around corners at and beyond the limit of the tire's grip," explains Sammy Liuson, president of Wheel Gallery. Avon Tires Motorsport supplies tires to over 150 racing championships around the world. There's no tougher arena for a tire than motorsport and Avon Tyres has been at the front of the grid for more than 40 years.

Avon Tires is now the title sponsor and control tire supplier of the prestigious British GT Championship. Known as the Avon Tires British GT Championship, the race features marques such as Aston Martin, Ferrari, Lotus, Morgan, Mosler, Panoz and Porsche. The company can trace its sports car roots back to the 1959 World Championship when Stirling Moss led the Aston Martin team to the title, including a dominant 1st and 2nd finish at the Le Mans 24 hrs race. In recent years Avon Tyres have been used to secure many championship victories in World Sportscar C2, FIA SR2 and ALMS SR2.

Owned by the Cooper Tire & Rubber Company, Avon utilizes Cooper technology and undergoes the same stringent quality and testing requirements set by European standards. Aside from its racing heritage, Avon Tires is an OEM equipment of British Car Companies such as Rolls Royce, Jaguar, Land Rover and Morgan.

For inquiries on how to improve your car's performance, visit Wheel Gallery at 318 Santolan Road corner M. Paterno, San Juan or call 724-2739 or 726-0965 or log on to www.conceptonewheels.com.

Explore with Thule



Designed to make traveling more convenient and pleasurable for your family, Thule has come up with a new bike rack carrier, the EuroClassic G5, which is geared towards active individuals and families who like to explore the great outdoors. Thule provides you with the solution to maximize the load capacity of your car, AUV or SUVs. Unlike locally manufactured load carriers, Thule has an easy snap on, snap off feature which let's you install the load carriers with ease.

The Thule EuroClassic G5 takes the No 1 spot when it comes to towbar-mounted bike carriers. This easy to mount and dismount bike carrier is clean-cut, with simple lines that make the EuroClassic a strong design statement on any modern car. Add outstandingly easy mounting and handling, exceptional stability and safety and you have the ideal bike carrier for holidays and long, relaxing cycle trips. With Thule, there's no drilling required, it's guaranteed safe from rust, and is wind tunnel tested to aerodynamically complement the exterior design of any vehicle. Thule's line of load carriers are 100-percent machine made from Sweden and has passed the four seasons test of the ISO.

The EuroClassic G5 is easy to use, and a new smart tilt function enables convenient boot access even with the bikes in place. Thule's patented locking mechanism assures the utmost security for any type of bike and can be mounted on SUVs with an external spare tire via a special adapter. For more information on how to gear up and make your vacation a more adventurous one; load up and visit the display at the Thule-EGR Showrooms in Ortigas Avenue (744-6367) and Pasong Tamo (892-7847), or log on to www.thule.com.

Mitsubishi announces winners of skills olympics

MITSUBISHI Motors Philippines Corp (MMPC) has announced the winners of the recently concluded 11th Mitsubishi Skills Olympics, which was held for the first time outside the capital and in the southern City of Mandaue. Fast Autoworld Philippines Corp hosted the event.

"This is the first time that the event is held outside Luzon," said Arthur James Untal, Fast Autoworld's sales manager and co-chair of the event.

The overall champion was Carworld Inc, raking in significantly high scores for all three categories, namely, vehicle sales, Mitsubishi genuine parts merchandising, and service operations. Diamond Motor Corp got first place for the vehicle sales and parts merchandising categories, while the 1st place for the service operations category was bagged by Avescor Motor Corp. DMC and AMC grabbed the 2nd and 3rd place, respectively, for the whole competition.

The annual Skills Olympics is held to promote competitiveness and encourage continuous skills development among personnel of the different dealers of Mitsubishi.

"It is through these competitions that we realize the importance of customer satisfaction," said Untal in Cebuano.

There were 88 contestants from all the Mitsubishi dealerships nationwide, including four who participated in a new category that covered Fuso sales.

Contestants for best salesperson first underwent a competency exam to determine their product knowledge. They then went through the process of selling a vehicle to a customer. This was also the procedure that the Fuso sales contestants underwent.

For the Mitsubishi genuine parts merchandising, a competency exam was also held followed by a role-playing exercise to determine how well they receive a customer.

The service technicians who participated in the service operations category had to undergo the Mitsubishi Service Technician Education Program examination after which they were tasked to tune-up a vehicle under time pressure.

"The essence of this activity is for us to be able to know how we can constantly improve the skills of our people," said Untal.

Rainy days are for riding

From page B3-01

Wet streets give a poor gauge on how much grip is available. Asphalt roads usually have more slip than grip, while concrete has a tendency to pool water. Metal surfaces like bridges, manhole covers, sidewalk gratings, and railway crossings draw water and have the least grip. Coincidentally, stay away from painted areas like the pedestrian zebra crossings, rumble strips and even markers because they offer as much grip as a wet soap bar.

There are many places in our typhoon-ridden land where oil and grease build up. Edsa, the big offramp to C5, the intersection of Makati Avenue and Paseo de Roxas and the whole of Jupiter Street (as per my limited experience with Metro Manila riding) have a thick film of this gunk. And no amount of acid rain can wash it off-making it more slippery when wet. But try riding in the long stretches up north even in the rain (Santiago, Isabela or the zig-zags of Real, Quezon) and you can actually get surprising amounts of traction on the concrete.

Traction testing is best done when you try to get a feel with your rear brake. Compare the stopping power of your bike on dry pavement before the rear tire breaks loose, and you now have a benchmark of traction available. On wet roads it is safe to assume you lose 50 percent of that traction and braking power. So if it takes two seconds to stop your bike from 30kph, add two more seconds to get the extra margin of safety.

However, all this traction mincing won't happen if you have tires as smooth as a baby's bottom. That's numero uno importance in traction action. You don't like thrill rides in the rain, so avoid locking up the rear wheel where it will tend to slide downhill and out of line.

During my last rainy weather ride to Tagaytay with a couple of friends, I took a couple of laps to deliberately lock up the rear wheel before stopping. That gave me a feel of how much grip there was. Once you get that connection for traction, you now know how much your tires can deliver under braking and cornering.

Here's one lesson I learned the hard way. Don't underinflate your tires (especially if they are worn down) because it doesn't increase traction. Underinflation actually creates a pocket of air under the tire just above the contact patch and won't deliver proper traction for cornering. If you have tires with thick thread actually overinflating by 1 to 5 psi will lessen the possibility of aquaplaning. But don't try this on bald tires. I guarantee a major spill each time you do it.

The turning point

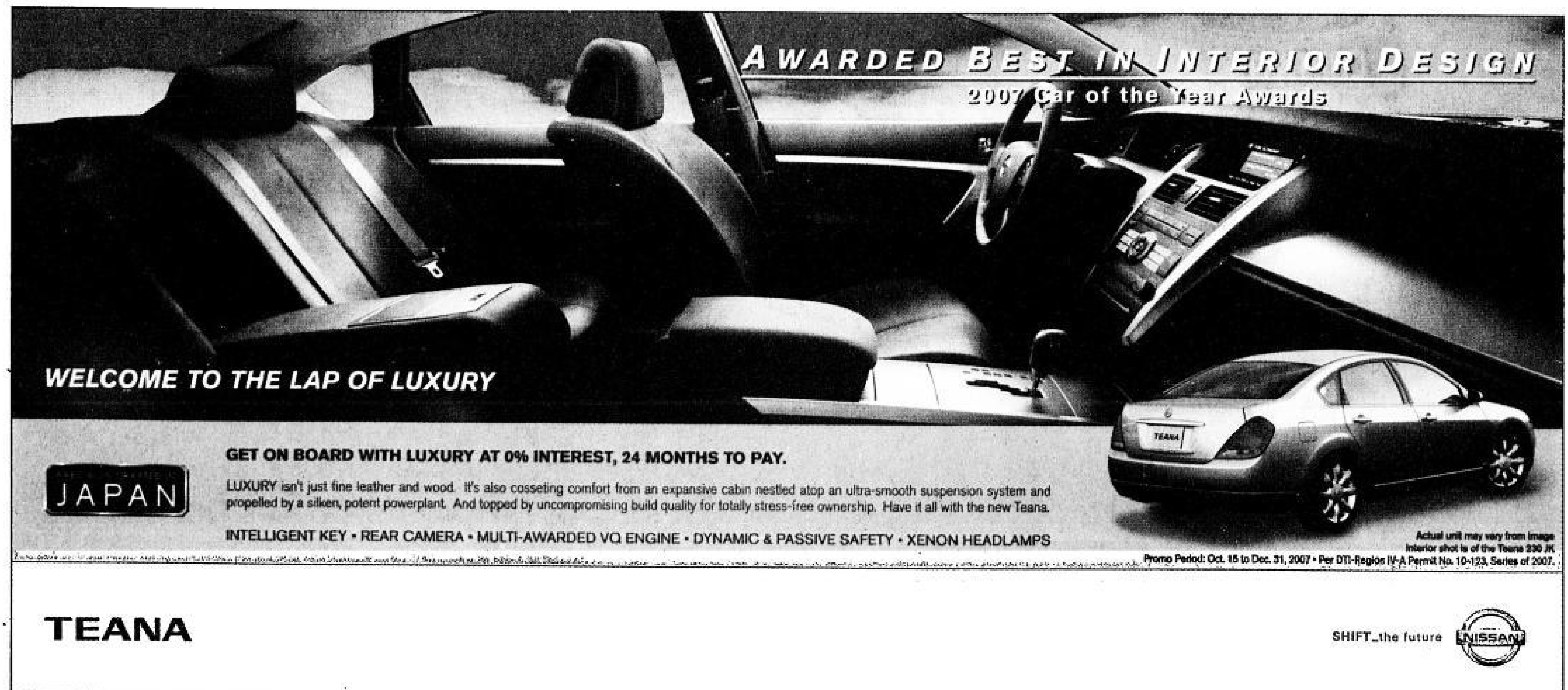
One last rainy-weather matter: turning. Turning your bike on such a slick surface demands oh so much smmmmooothhhhnessss. It is easy to get the bike giddy by a heavy foot on the brake or an overreacting finger on the brake lever. Suddenly locking your front brakes in the wet usually means an over-the-handlebars flight. Same effect will most likely happen for sudden steering inputs and imprudent revving.

If you do fall, the next question is how to be ready for other vehicles in front and in between you. The best way to avoid them is to keep your balance.

Watch Valentino Rossi in the rain to see what smooth is. Gradual direction changes, well-planned switchovers, early braking and well-initiated and progressive use of the throttle, well-timed and smooth downshifts and most importantly, engaging the clutch a bit slower than usual usually get the smooth results desired.

Once I finish refurbishing my Suzuki with its new Takasago rims and new Metzeler Motard tires I am going to go on a long wet weather ride. I've got a pretty hand raiser for a back ride and her pink Arai helmet reads "Pink Cheeks" and jacket carries the initials "JPM_GO!" That will be another story!

Next month: Rain Weather Riding at Night. Please send your comments to: killswitch.roadtalk@gmail.com.



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Ask GIBS

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Mechanic-at-large Giby Yalung answers your most pressing automotive problems

Dear Gibs,

I got a second-hand Japan-imported, 4x4 A/T Toyota Townace turbo diesel. After a few weeks of driving I was unlucky enough to snap a timing belt, thus ruining my cylinder head. The bill my mechanic gave me sent my blood boiling. He was charging me close to P70,000, and I bought that van for only P120,000! The mechanic told me that the parts needed were hard to find and not locally available even at Toyota dealerships. My question is, can repairs of such a nature go up that high?

Paulo of Pasig

Dear Paulo,

I really don't know the extent of the damage to your engine. I know, for a fact, that with a van like yours, it's going to take a lot of effort just to pull out the engine and work on it. However, I do agree with your mechanic that the car being imported and the unavailability of the parts would be big factors in estimating costs. Almost all of the components of the Toyota Townace turbo diesel are totally different from the local 90s-era Toyota Tamaraw FX 2c engine (non-turbo).

Either you dig deep into your pockets to restore the engine, or better yet, just buy a good second-hand surplus engine which would cost just around half of your repair bills. My advice: Next time you buy an imported vehicle, make sure you can find parts locally. Better yet, buy cars proudly assembled by Filipinos. Thanks for writing.

Gibs

Dear Gibs,

I drive a 2005 Mitsubishi Lancer and after a long trip from Subic, my brakes started to fail and saw smoke coming out of the front wheels. I was still able to drive it to a service station by the highway. The mechanics told me that the brake pads were worn out, to the extent that the condition was already "bakal sa bakal" (metal to metal). I told them to replace it, and the price of a new set was quite reasonable. Since it was very late and I had to rush back home to Pasay, the whole repair took only an hour for both left and right front wheels.

My problem now is every time I apply the brakes, a loud screech comes out and the brake pedal feels like it's going up and down in a pulsing motion. Other than that, the brakes work just fine. I'm just worried that something's still wrong.

Andre of Pasay

Dear Andre,

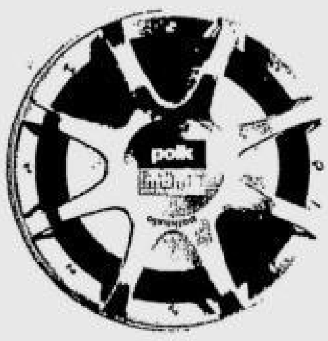
Most probably, the rotors of your front disc brakes warped due to the friction and heat caused by the metal to metal grinding. The heat scoured the rotors and caused "flexing" in the metal. The only way to repair this is to replace the rotors with a new set, or if possible, have a machine shop use a lathe to shave off the uneven surface of the rotors until they become flat again. The pulsing action of the brake pedal is caused by the fluid in the brakelines pulsing back and forth as the warped rotors push the caliper pistons up and down. Thanks for writing.

Gibs

Veracruz: Larger than life luxury

WHO SAYS BIG THINGS ONLY COME IN small packages? With the Veracruz, living large is the ultimate reward. Endowed with the richness of space, full equipment levels, engine power, and top-rate safety and convenience features, the Veracruz exhibits supple automotive engineering definitive of its opulent heritage. Up front, the Veracruz renders itself intimidating on the road with its towering stance, sleek lines, massive curvaceous front, and HID headlamps. Step inside its domain and surround yourself in unbridled elegance with its rich leather interior dotted with dual tone trim materials, fine cloth and metallic elements that add just the right aplomb to the inviting cocoon of the Veracruz. At the cockpit, the driver's seat and tilt-telescopic steering wheel are motorized to easily adjust to your preferred driving position, while the instrument panel is illuminated in blue to minimize eye strain. Conveniences such as 12v outlets, door and seat back storage pockets, luggage compartment and reading lamps, lit lockable glove box, power windows with anti-pinch, a six-disc Infinity sound system, electric exterior mirrors, and a whole host more, keep comfort and flexibility within easy reach wherever you go. Space is likewise a boon in the Veracruz, as its third row seats split fold 50:50, recline and have adjustable headrests. The second row seats on the other hand fold 60:40 and slide easily forward to allow third row accessibility. You can also fold away all

rear seats and have a full area of cargo space at your disposal. At the forefront of diesel engine technology is the 3.0 liter V6 CRDi E-VGT engine that powers the Veracruz. Remarkably quiet and frugal on fuel, this diesel power plant delivers 240ps and 46kg.m of torque, making the Veracruz one of the most high-performing diesel-powered SUVs in its class. Selectable 4WD, traction control, ABS with EBD, and ESP put the stability of the Veracruz in optimum control. Adding up to its safety profile are front, side and curtain airbags, and big, wide tires to keep a firm grip on the road.



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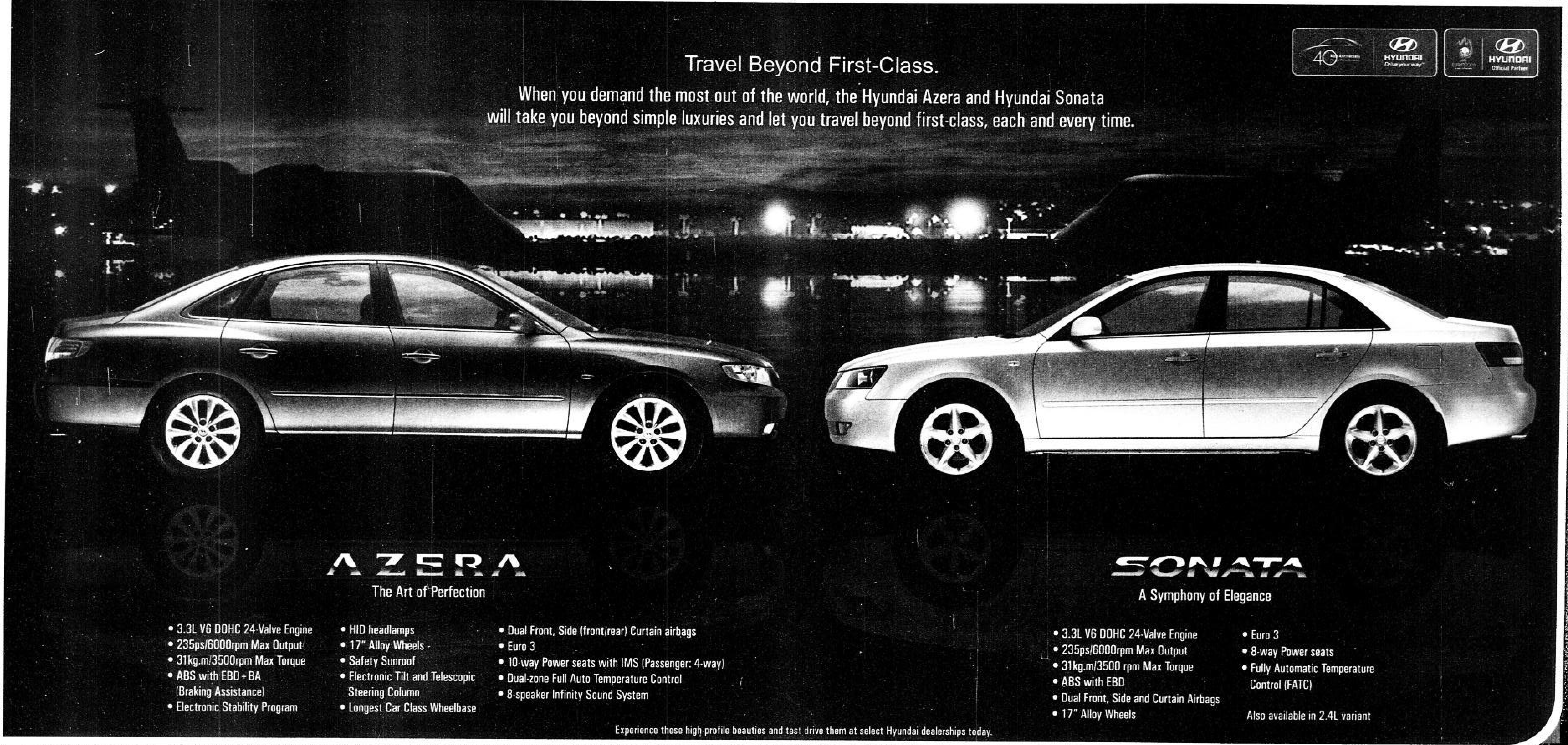

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SHOPAHOLICS ANONYMOUS
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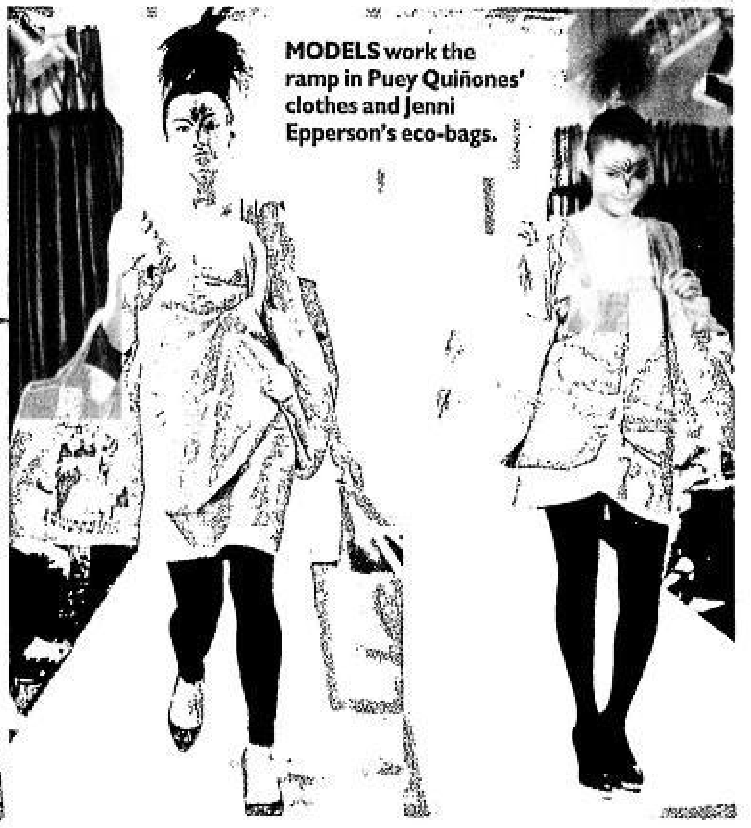
ECO-BAGS never looked this good!

Accessory for the green fashionista

Jenni Epperson's eco-friendly bags declare: 'No to plastic!'



MODELS work the ramp in Puey Quiñones' clothes and Jenni Epperson's eco-bags.

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The Jenni Epperson line of eco-friendly shopping bags says "no to plastic" in the loudest way possible.

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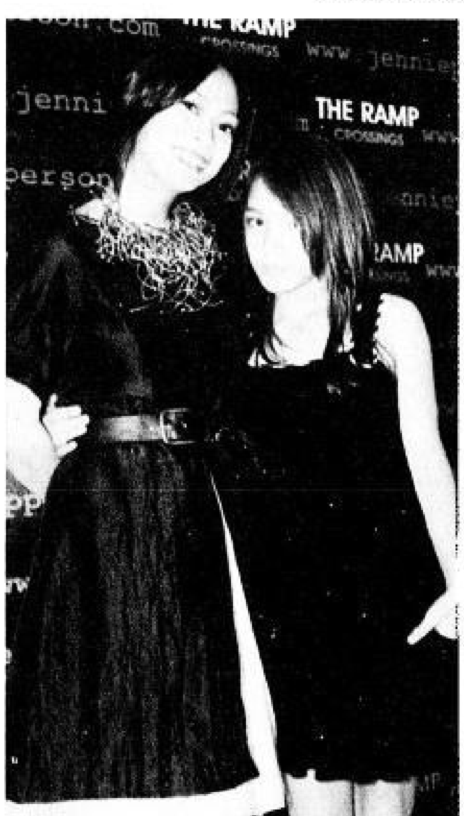
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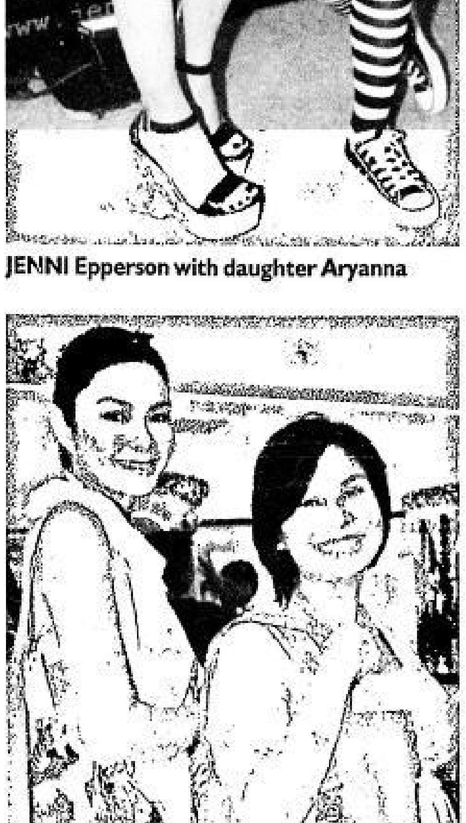
JENNI Epperson with daughter Aryanna


SHOPAHOLICS ANONYMOUS
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APPLES Aberin-Sadhwani with The Ramp's Xandra Ramos-Padilla

EVERYONE SHOPS AT SM SUPERMALLS DURING CHRISTMAS.

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SM SUPERMALLS

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MARKS & Spencer

Holiday fashion at the mall

AS A PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS, PREmier shopping and lifestyle destination Shangri-La Plaza created a stir in the metro as it brought together the best in fashion, style and luxury for a sensational fashion show.

This year's stylish run took its cue from the catwalks of New York and Milan. Under the direction of Jackie Aquino, creative styling of Luis Espiritu and exclusive hair and makeup services by Basement Salon, the Holiday 2007 Collection captured the vibe of urban celebrations from day to night. The day look was one of spunk and attitude, while evening get-togethers called for dazzle and shine.

The runways overran with crisp, tailored jackets, skinny denims, no-fuss, belted and high-waisted skirts, wide-legged trousers, attention-grabbing dresses, and metallic accents from the mall's crop of prestigious labels and cult brands.

Nail your look for the festive season with Shang's preview of what to expect once the holidays swing into full gear.

Brands and labels

Smart and stylish are the bywords in daywear for the season. Get that tailored look with Ben Sherman's signature pieces that come in a bold, confident palette of red and blue. Polished and put-together creations dominate Memo's collection of flattering ensembles and premium work wear staples.

Indulge in cosmopolitan flair and understated elegance from international brand Daniel Hechter's lineup of fashion-forward pieces. For those who prefer to dress in comfort, British India combines elegance and ease with its embellished casual wear for both men and women.

Cult favorites Gas, Diesel, Esprit and Marithé François Girbaud play up traditional daytime drab with urban streetwear pieces. Their collections' ingenious cuts, striking prints and detailed finishing spell effortlessly hip and trendy looks. Revolutionary label Tough Jeansmith brings back the golden days of grunge through eye-catching creations that stand out for its dangerously sexy character.

Marks & Spencer shows off the timeless alongside the contemporary via its resort anthology of must-have tops, bottoms, accessories and everything else in between. T-box's selection of colorful resort apparel is also the hands-down choice for sprucing up your casuals. K & Co. pays homage to the East as the brand's chic pieces are injected with subtle oriental accents.

Groundbreaking jeans brand 7 for All Mankind puts an end to the search for the perfect pair of denims with designs, washes and cuts that present an ode to the classic jeans. Paul Smith makes a sartorial statement with pinstripes. The premium clothing label trains the spotlight on what's sleek and slimming.

Shimmer and shine

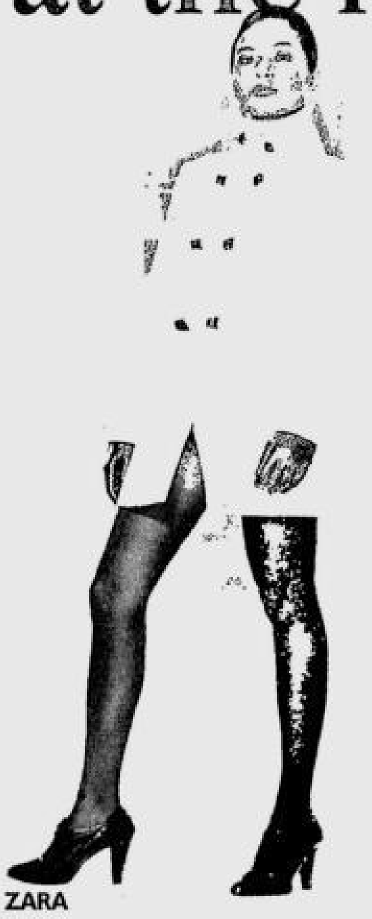
A tasteful mélange of designs that encompass a wide range of easy to haute fashion for evening are featured in fashionista favorite Zara's collection. Shimmer and shine emphasize the sensuality and grace of evening pieces from Celine and Cole Haan's stylish yet surprisingly comfortable footwear.

Evening garbs take on new forms and designs via Debenhams' lineup of pieces that carry the quintessential British quirk and knack for fashion. A clever mix of clothes from Rustan's (featuring Hindy Tantoco's Culte Femme, Red and Luna) and Crossings Department Store (featuring United Pop, Jun Escario and Rocco) demonstrate the chic edginess of today's young designers.

Exquisite detailing and elegant silhouettes mark the tailored pieces from Bergamo, while Mico Boutique references the glamour and giddy excitement of grand balls and dances with ethereal, eye-catching creations.

A panoply of the season's must-have accessories from "it" bags, shoes and jewelry present a tribute to talent and craftsmanship. Don stylish cover-ups from Anna Pashmina and make the rounds of the glittering holiday gatherings with Pazzion and Ecco's newest footwear designs.

Step out in all-out glamour with Felicity's gown ensembles accented by the posh brand's equally sophisticated charms and trinkets. Meanwhile, luxurious styles and materials masterfully combined and crafted are presented in the latest ensemble of au courant bags from Fino Leatherware, Furla, La Bagagerie, Kate Spade, and Lancel.


ZARA

Accessory for the green . . .

STYLE SOLE. Michael Salientes and Solea's Emi Jorge

PUEY Quiñones

SHOPAHOLICS
ANONYMOUS
PINAY and anti-plastic. KC Concepcion

From page C1

who constantly use plastic.

In colors like fuschia, aqua, lime, and salmon, the bags carry a valuable message: "Say no to plastic."

The sizes are very functional and the bags come in different designs to complement the *shoppingera* spirit in everyone.

Epperson says her green bag line is a shout-out to all shopaholics who unknowingly continue to harm the environment by persisting in the use of plastics.

She urges them to make a difference by saying no to plastic bags.

With these eco-friendly bags, shopaholics can shop till they drop without feeling guilty that they have contributed to the continued degradation of the environment.

And every bag purchased will benefit Bantay Kalikasan, helping the foundation raise money for its various projects and activities designed to help save Mother Earth.

Jenni Epperson Eco-friendly Bags (P599) are available at The Ramp, 2/F Podium, and www.jenniepperson.com.

BAG LADY. Tara Tambunting

JENNA Genio with Mitch Dulce

CANVAS bag is the buzz. Phoemela Barranda

CELINE Lopez says no to plastic!

LULU Tan-Gan

THE DEVIL wears a canvas bag. Nina Estacio and Pauline Suaco-Juan

CARMINA Sanchez with The Ramp's Mikka Genito

YRYS duo Gayle and Gene Gozum

MEGA TANDEM. Patrick Ty and Bianca Salonga

FANTASTIC organic. Martha Lovina and Jun Jun Poblador

ERIKA Paredes and Vicky Montenegro

RUFFA Gutierrez, Avon style ambassador

New gem series marries glamour and function

AVON HAS NAMED RUFFA GUTIERREZ AS its style ambassador.

The beauty queen, actress, and mother to daughters Lorin and Venice is known for her up-to-date wardrobe. A common misconception is that she has eyes only for costly designer labels, but Avon Fashions shows another side to Ruffa.

"I was introduced to Avon's latest accessories and I like what I see," Ruffa said. "They cost less, but they're as good as the real thing."

Ruffa now has her eyes set on Avon Fashions' Genuine Gem Collection, a series of precious stones made into earrings, bracelets and necklaces-amethyst, citrine, jade, crystal agate, and rose quartz.

The collection is made from nickel-free material, which won't tarnish or irritate the most sensitive skin. "The stones also repel negative energy and represent positive symbols—that is exactly how I want to live my life right now," Ruffa said.

Avon celebrates its 14th year in the country this year. Its new collections of jewelry, footwear, bags, and accessories are now on Ruffa's must-have list, and she encourages her fans to check them out as well.

The latest items of Avon Fashions are inspired by Ruffa's classy and trendy style. "I go for pieces that marry fashion and function," she said.

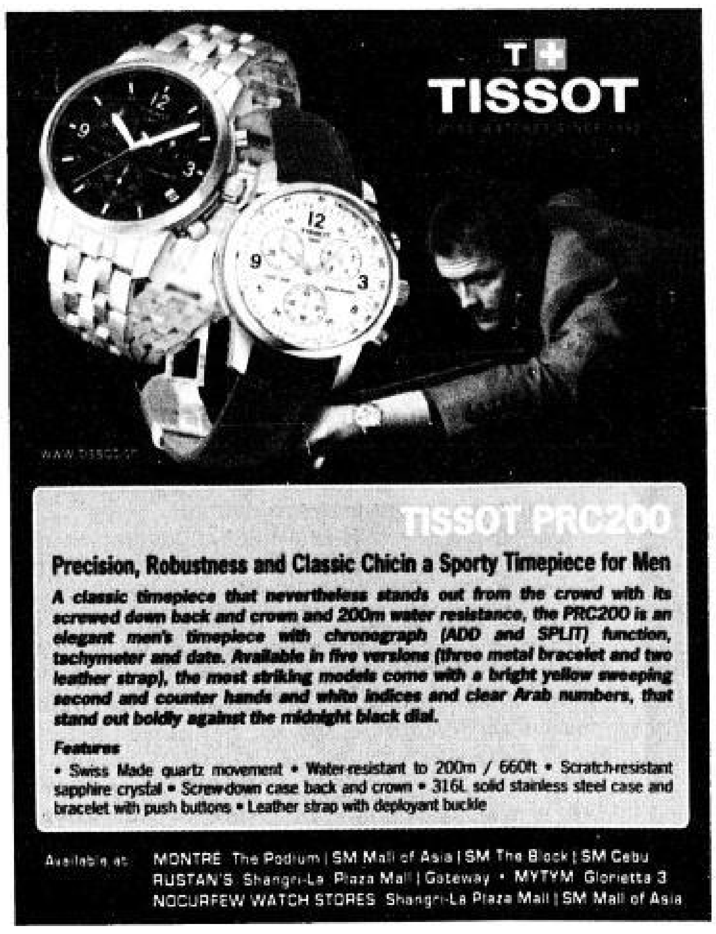
Beginning as a simple perfume company in 1886, Avon has diversified to include a whole range of products that complete any stylish woman's fashion and beauty statement.

Its lines include Avon Fashions, Avon's jewelry and accessories line.

For this holiday season, Avon Fashions offers its Genuine Gem Collection.

Ask your Avon lady for the latest Avon Fashions Jewelry and Accessories. Also call 864-AVON (2866) or e-mail helpdesk.ph@avon.com for more information.

AVON Fashions' Genuine Gem Collection, inspired by Gutierrez's classy-trendy style



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A classic timepiece that nevertheless stands out from the crowd with its screwed down back and crown and 200m water resistance, the PRC200 is an elegant men's timepiece with chronograph (ADD and SPLIT) function, tachymeter and date. Available in five versions (three metal bracelet and two leather strap), the most striking models come with a bright yellow sweeping second and counter hands and white indices and clear Arab numbers, that stand out boldly against the midnight black dial.

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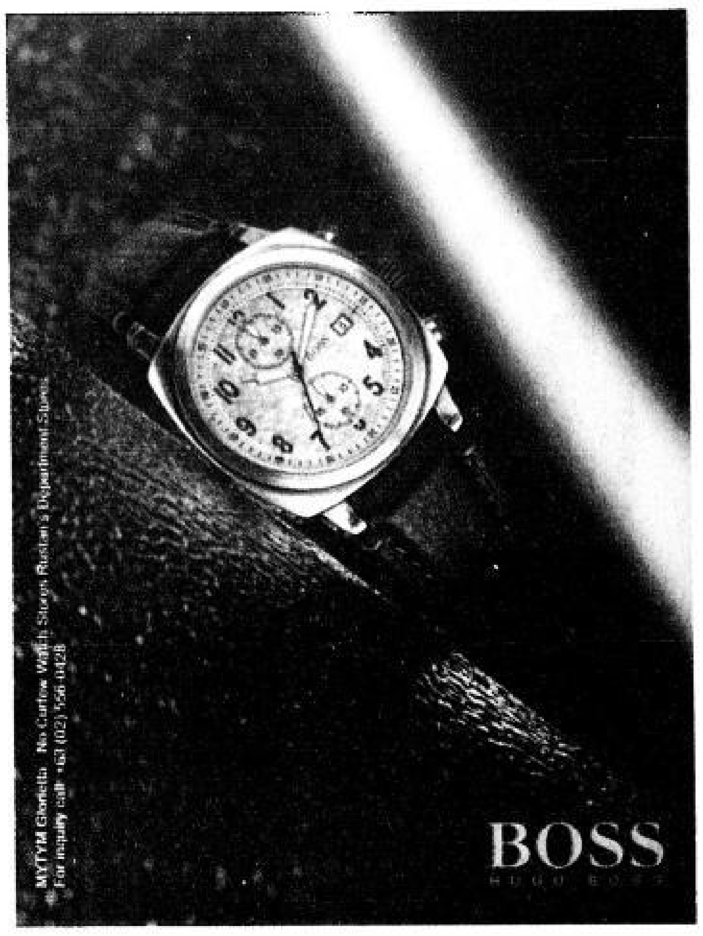

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Christmas is Officially Open!

Join us on December 1, 2007, 7:00 p.m. at the Bridgeway Parking Area of Festival Supermall, to mark the opening of **Christmas @ Filicity** with the lighting of the giant Christmas tree.

Party with a **FREE** concert featuring Wally Gonzales and Retrospect. And cap the evening with a fireworks display!

Come in your 70's outfit and win fabulous prizes!

FILINVEST
PEPSI

Only the very vest for men

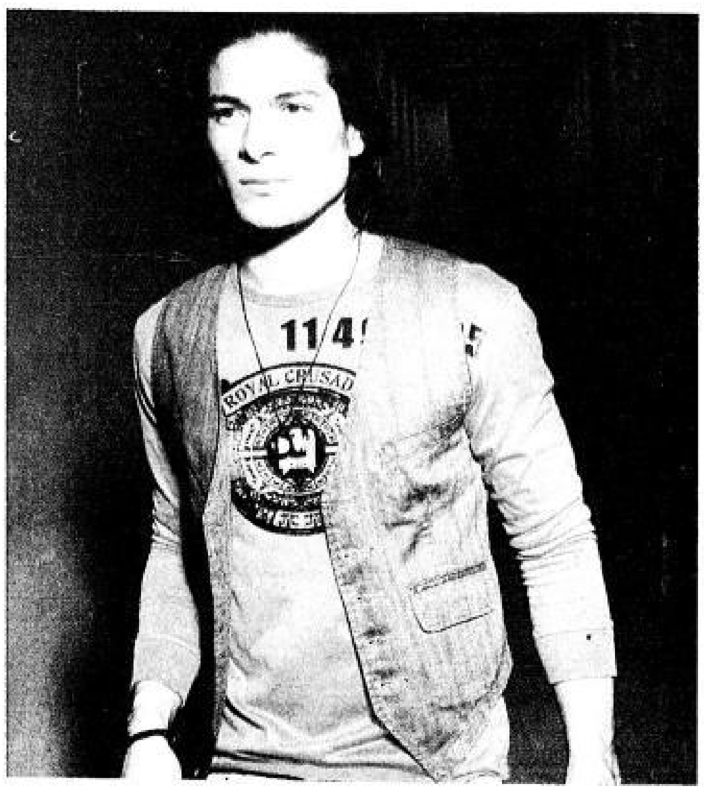
THERE IS A LOT OF VESTED INTEREST in men's wear as the holidays approach. The days, after all, are getting cooler. And vests are a stylish way to keep warm as the temperature drops.

Only the very vest is available at SM: preppie style knitted cardigans, pinstriped vests for more formal events, denim vests with a lot of attitude for casual Christmas get-togethers. Also watch out for cotton knit shirts that create cool statements with playful prints and layered effects.

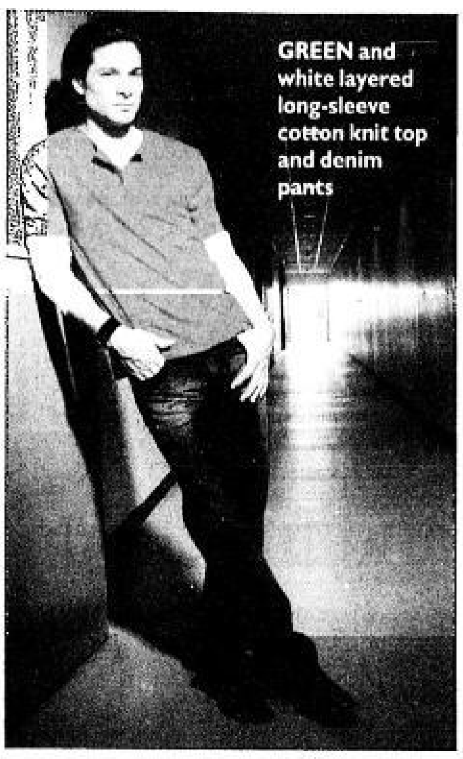
The collection is available at the Men's Wear Department of all SM stores.

GRAY button-down vest, yellow printed long-sleeve cotton know shirt and khaki pants

BLACK zippered-front vest, red Destination High College printed long-sleeve shirt and black pants



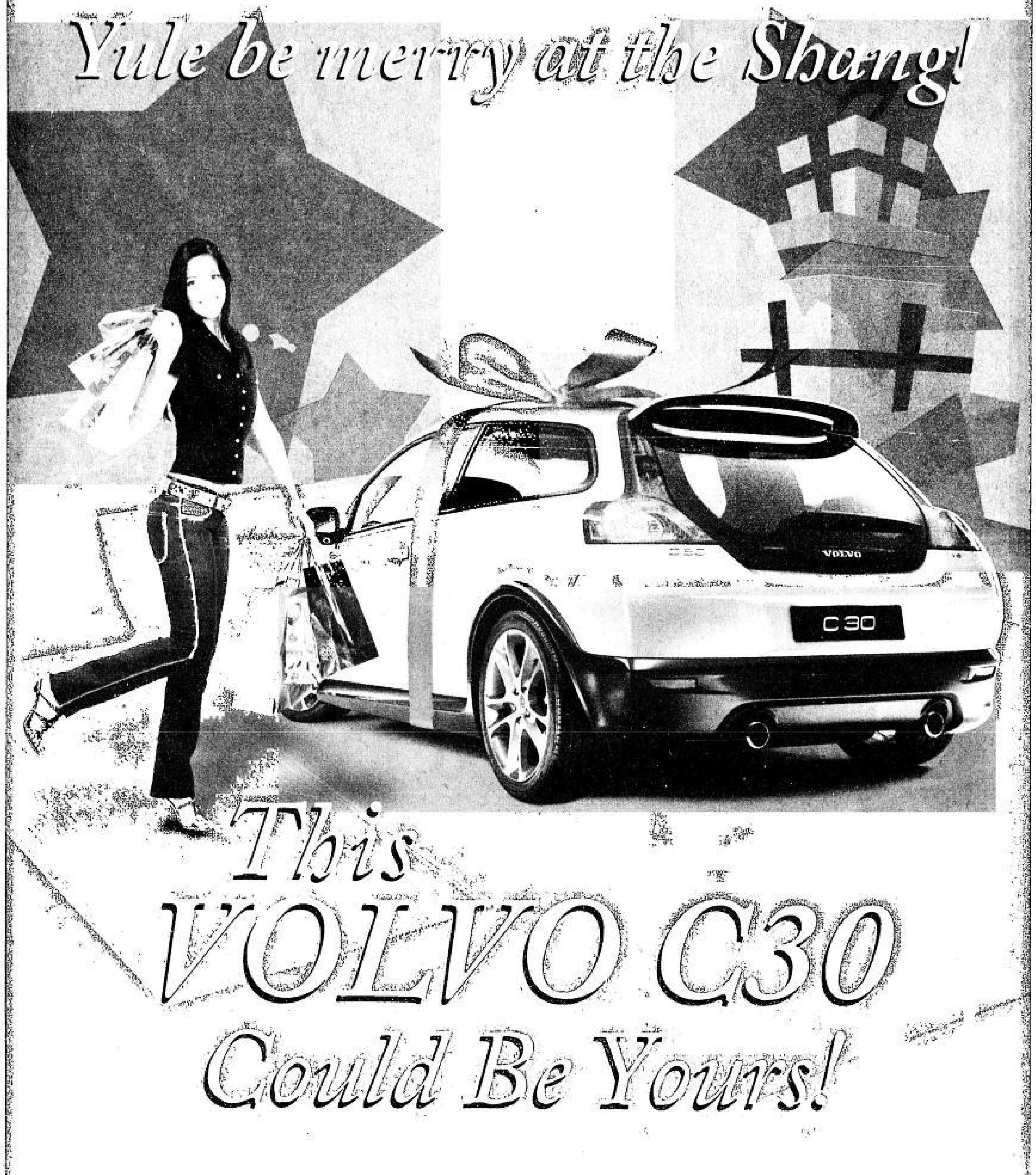
ORANGE long-sleeve cotton knit shirt, Royal Crusade prints, fatigue button-down vest with pocket and khaki pants



GREEN and white layered long-sleeve cotton knit top and denim pants

FATIGUE button-down vest, white shirt and denim pants

RED V-NECK knitted cardigan with black and white accents, white long-sleeve shirt, and black pants



This holiday season, lots of wonderful yuletide treats and surprises are in store for you at the Shang, the metro's most sophisticated shopper's paradise.

'Tis the season to be jolly as Shang holiday shoppers get rewarded with a chance to win exciting prizes via a grand raffle promotion.

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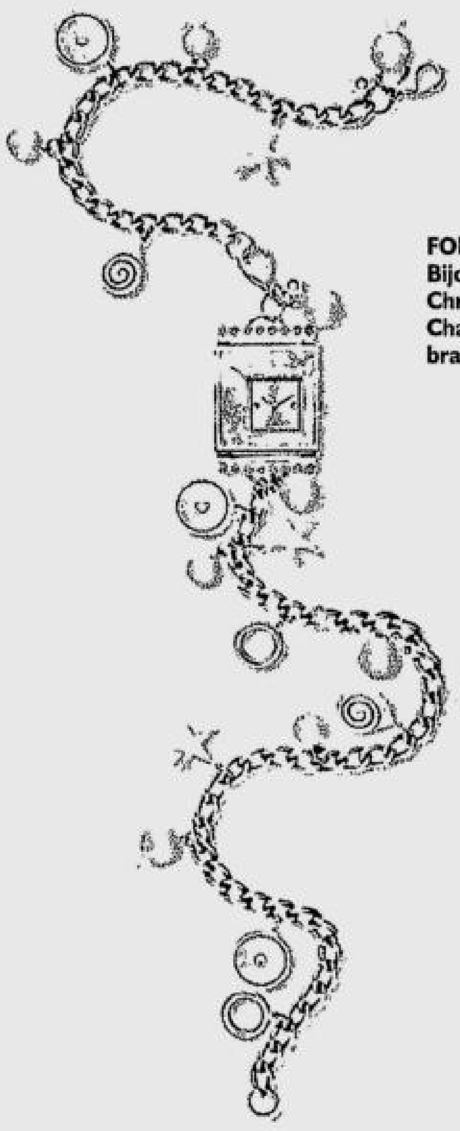
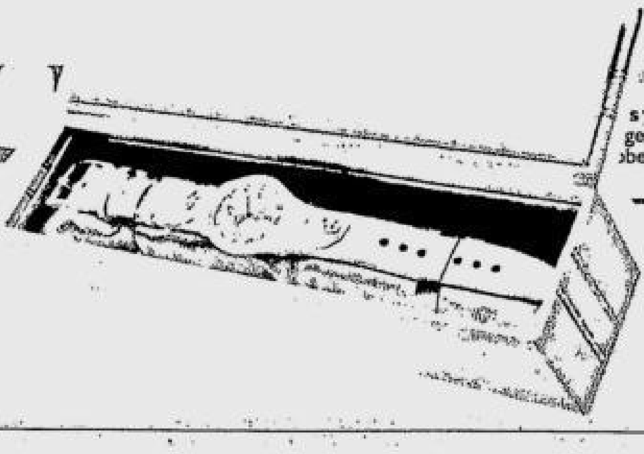


FOR HER: Bijoux Christmas Charm bracelet



FOR HER: Swatch Winter Day Jelly in Jelly with a pale ivory bracelet and decorated with white whirls and paths of thread strung with multi-faceted crystals that reflect the light in rainbow colors

Timely gifts

If you can't give someone time, give a timepiece. It won't be the same, of course, but if it's a Swatch, the recipient will at least have fun, and a present that is for keeps. Available at all Swatch Stores and Kiosks

FOR HIM: Swatch Sand Structure with a clear, concise design and the understated elegance of classic white and brown. Swatch Irony Chrono Retrograde with brown alligator pattern leather strap highlighted by fine white stitching

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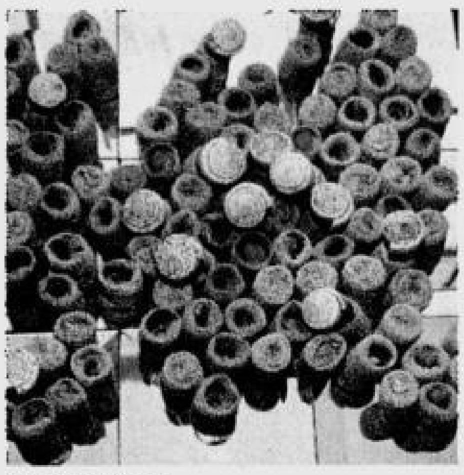
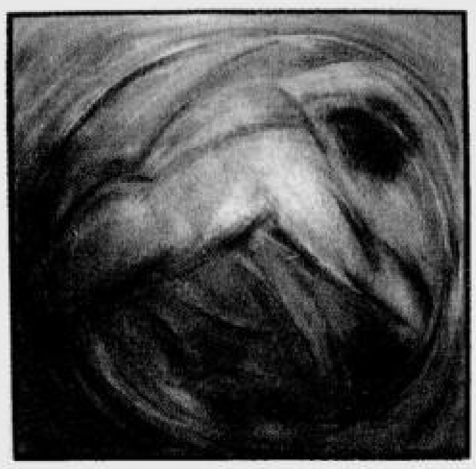
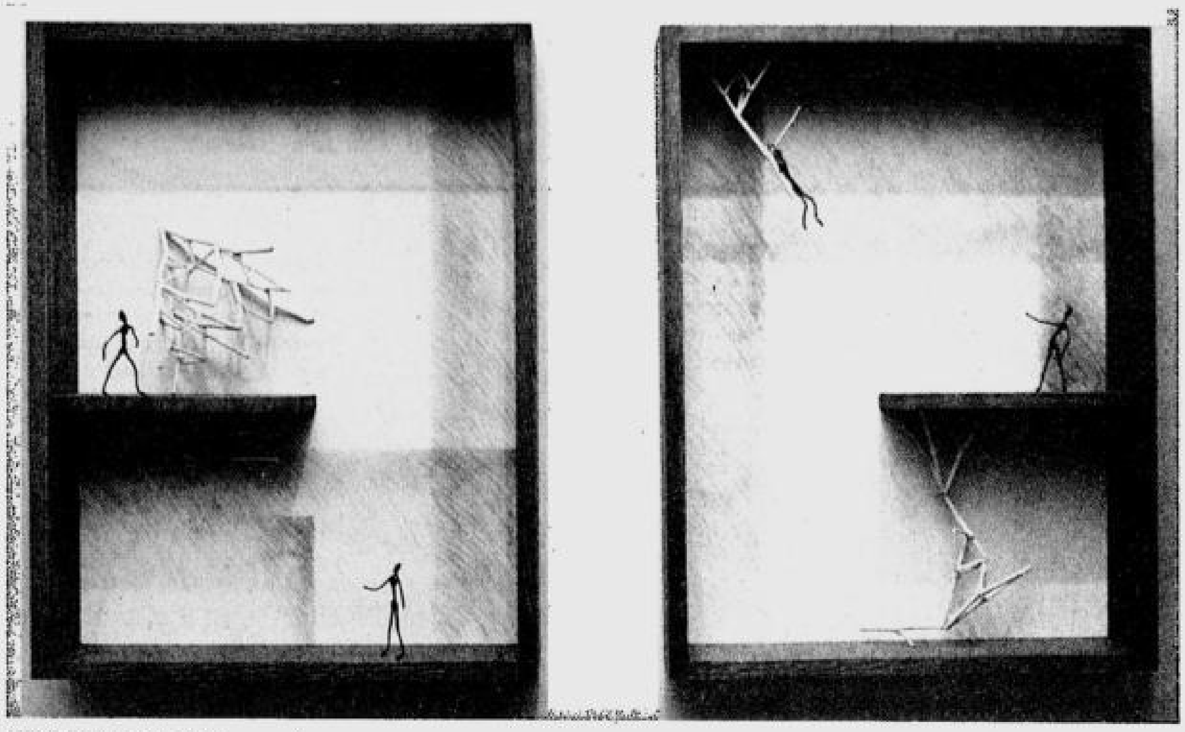
Per DTI-NCR Permit No: 3964 Series of 2007


LUISA Robinson


BUDJI Layug


KENNETH Cobonpue

LIFE-STYLED
Thelma Sioson San Juan

Movement 8 turns 8

MOVEMENT 8 MARKED its eighth anniversary with cocktails at **Budji Layug**'s B at Home.

If there's a batch of Filipino designers and artists that has cracked the global market, it's Movement 8.

In the '80s, few would have guessed it would be in home and furniture design where the Filipino would find a niche in the world market. At that time, everybody was banking on fashion design to land the Philippines on the world stage.

But as it turned out, in 1999, then Citem head **Eli Pinto** marshaled the trade exposition body's resources to project and market the collective talents of Budji Layug, **Kenneth Cobonpue**, **Tes Pasola**, **Tony Gonzales**, **Ann Pamintuan**, **Milo Naval** and **Carlo Cordaro**.

But since Carlo didn't stay active in Movement 8 and concentrated instead on his Cebu-based furniture export business, Pinto, herself a graduate of the Parsons School of Design, became the eighth member.

Pinto had that rare eye and talent for design, and more important, the leadership to nurture moody and temperamental designers and artists and point them to a productive direction.

Pinto and Layug yielded a most impressive creative collaboration and before long, Movement 8 was making an impact in major world trade fairs, enjoying a burgeoning following in major design cities, from Frankfurt to Milan.

Today Movement 8 includes **Renato Vidal**, **Maricris Floirendo Brias**, and **Rene Alcala** (of Domecillo fame).

Missing Eli

Eli passed away almost three years ago. "I miss her every day," Budji told me.

Budji has never stayed put. His life has been one exciting, creative movement. In the '70s, he was known as Budjiwara, the hairdresser of Manila's elite who created the hairstyles of the era. The name Budjiwara, in fact, is immortalized in the '70s lyrics of the Hot Dogs, originator of the Manila Sound.

The public hardly knew that Budji didn't deliberately set out on a hairstyling career. During a wild sojourn in Europe, a very young Budji, with bosom buddies **Louie Cruz**, **Ron Gomez**, and **Petusa**, thought of enrolling in Vidal Sassoon's famous school because—I love hearing Louie tell this story—their bunch of spoiled kids wanted to overstay in London, and their parents wouldn't let them. So a sure way to stay on was to study hairdressing!

Of course, only Budji and Petusa acquired skills from that grand excuse. They topped the class. Petusa would later do covers for British Vogue under the exotic name Pedro.

Louie went on to become the social icon of the '80s and '90s, whipping up the biggest parties unsurpassed to this day and the era-defining bar Giraffe. Obviously, he didn't go into hairstyling. ("I only cut boy's hair," he'd tell me devilishly.)

As early as then, Budji proved to be a natural artist. Whatever he laid his hands on, he produced a work of art. In the '70s, it was a pair of scissors, and Budjiwara became the hottest salon.

Vidal Sassoon group

At last week's cocktails, the "Vidal Sassoon group" was around, so in character, having fun—and directing the fun. I asked Petusa, who wore his trademark shades (at 8 in the evening, take note) why he had stopped cutting and styling hair, and how many of Manila's socialites missed his touch.

The biggest lifestyle project to watch out for in 2008 is Budji Layug's Greenbelt 5 shop

MOVEMENT 8 and friends

In imperial tone, he said, "I'm retired, dahling ... I don't like to be like Vidal Sassoon, with these hands." Then he proceeded to bend his fingers in the most bizarre contortion.

"Arthritis!" he said. "I don't want to end up with arthritic fingers!" Seeing my gullible expression, he continued, "You see, your hands are tired from cutting hair, then you shampoo your client's hair ... bad for the hands." Indeed you learn a thing or two every day.

Budji furniture

But back to Budji. Having outgrown his Budjiwara phase, he went back to the family furniture business, and again, set the design trend in the country. His trailblazing bamboo furniture won a market at Bloomingdale's.

Budji has come so far. His designs—from furniture to homes to buildings—are here and abroad, from Kuala Lumpur to Provence in France. His B at Home in Bangkok is a well-known design showcase.

Budji is a Filipino artist who has evolved ahead of his era. His aesthetics is not that of a native purist. Rather he has powerfully blended Asia with the world; his is modernity with an Oriental soul. And it is still evolving interestingly.

World stage

Collectively and individually, Movement 8 evolves its art on the world stage. Cobonpue is the hottest furniture designer, with a following even in Hollywood (Brad Pitt has a Cobonpue). He told us he had just come from yet another show abroad. His latest, Noodles Collection, photographed for the first time in Marissa Fernan's "Cebu Pride of Place" coffeetable book to be launched soon, is an interesting line inspired by doodlings.

For this anniversary event that went without hype, Movement 8 created artworks—again to raise the bar. They turned the elegant B at Home into a vast design statement for 2008.

For the first time, Budji displayed his paintings—abstract acrylics. Not known to many, Budji's paintings—when he agrees to part with them, which is actually between never and rarely—have caught the interest of yuppie art collectors in Asia, who see a few of them in the Bangkok showroom. But it takes some convincing for Budji to part with them or to even exhibit them. The Movement 8 anniversary was an exception.

Kenneth created a wall installation that, for him, defined space in relation to figures. Tes Pasola, whose paper wall art is sought after by collectors, displayed a bright mural in the receiving area. Her Christmas paper installations are worth the trip to Grand Hyatt on M. H. del Pilar in Manila. Hyatt has tapped Tes to do the Christmas décor this year. It was Ann Pamintuan's turn last year.

At the anniversary, Ann displayed her metal sculptures and lotus metal bed. Tony Gonzales showed his paper wall art and the big hit in the Gifts and Graces auction this year—his mother-of-pearl vases.

Luisa Robinson displayed her table centerpieces made of shell and mesh wire. Rene exhibited his signature mother-of-pearl mirror. Maricris showed her lanterns. Milo didn't have the time to contribute pieces but his winning furniture were all over the venue.

Lifestyle store

Where will the Movement go now?

"Everywhere," Budji said. "Movement 8 always moves."

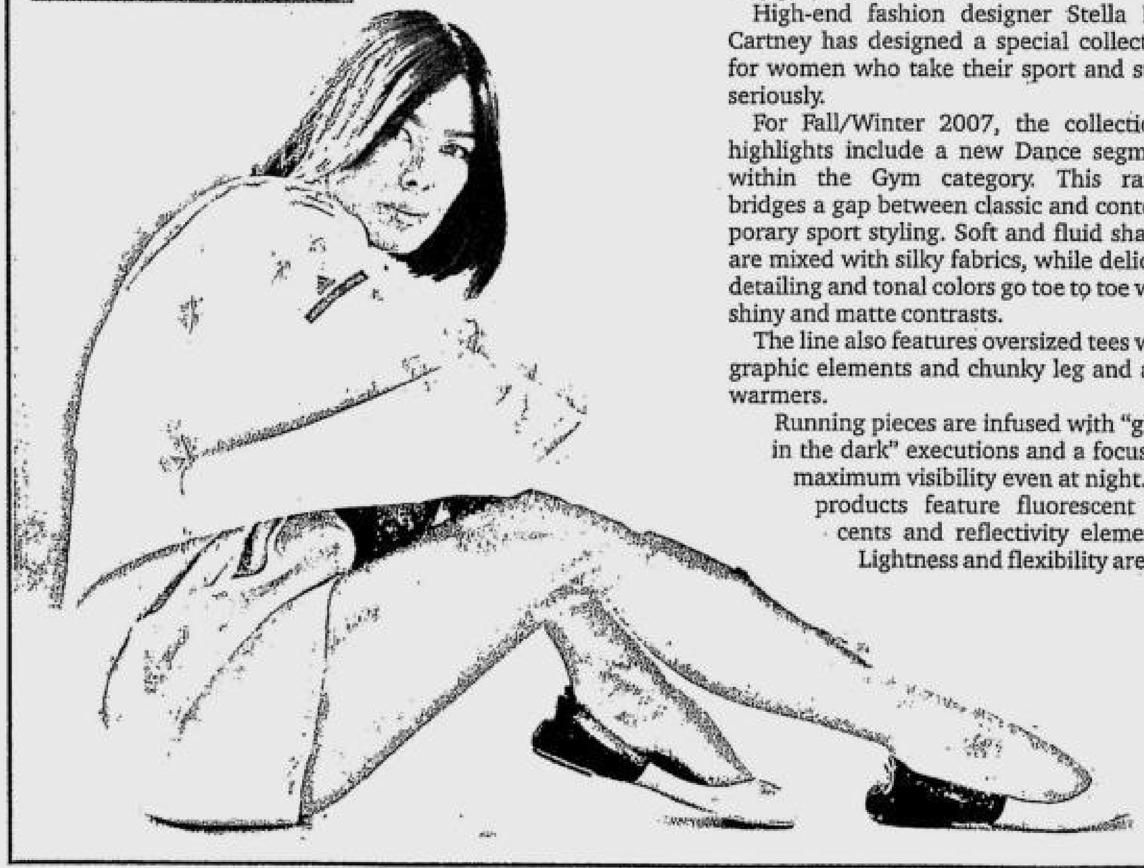
The first stop of that "everywhere" is Greenbelt 5 where Budji will open in the first quarter of 2008 a 1,000-sq m lifestyle store featuring not only the works of Movement 8, but also a fashion corner, a cafe, a gallery and other interests and strengths of Budji. It is set to become the biggest lifestyle must-see in 2008.

Welcome back, Helena

At the Movement 8 party was **Helena Guerrero**, in her signature dyed turban and robe. The Catalan-born design visionary shook Manila in the '70s and '80s.

"I see my life as (made up of) chapters. That chapter is finished, closed. Now I move on," she told us, explaining how her life in New York is all behind her, and how she's now developing an island in Palawan.

ANGEL Aquino wears a white-collared shirt and dark purple tennis skirt finished with thala yoga shoes and bag.


AMANDE washed hoodie partnered with bronco yoga shorts and gold thala yoga shoes

Sporty chic's new Angel

SLEEK YET EXCEPTIONAL PERFECTLY defines Adidas, according to newest Adidas personality Angel Aquino. Model, actress, TV host and mother, Angel Aquino is no doubt one of the country's most beautiful faces.

"I love the Stella McCartney line," she says. "It's very comfy, very stylish and non-compromising. Her line is unpredictable. It marries the notion of sport and fashion. It's very playful and feminine."

High-end fashion designer Stella McCartney has designed a special collection for women who take their sport and style seriously.

For Fall/Winter 2007, the collection's highlights include a new Dance segment within the Gym category. This range bridges a gap between classic and contemporary sport styling. Soft and fluid shapes are mixed with silky fabrics, while delicate detailing and tonal colors go toe to toe with shiny and matte contrasts.

The line also features oversized tees with graphic elements and chunky leg and arm warmers.

Running pieces are infused with "glow in the dark" executions and a focus on maximum visibility even at night. All products feature fluorescent accents and reflectivity elements. Lightness and flexibility are evident in the designs, accented with clear materials, layered meshes and pack-away features.

Accessories feature a special lanyard package as a highlight. Rope-like materials create a playful contrast to the collection's muted colors, while the carabineer-inspired hearts click easily onto bags or apparel pieces.

Adidas by Stella McCartney is available at Adidas TriNoma and Rockwell Power Plant mall.

WHITE tennis dress accessorized with black knitted knee high adhara yoga boots

TENNIS bra top in electric hues layered with dark space run tank and run woven pants

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ROXANNE Guinoo: Get Laud!'s image model

Fresh, fun, trendy

YOUNG ACTRESS ROXANNE GUINOO IS the image model for hot new fashion brand Get Laud!

"Roxanne epitomizes the Get Laud! girl: confident, fun, trendy yet one who never compromises comfort. We're excited to have her as our first image model," says Geraldine Laudencia, Get Laud! owner.

Get Laud! offers edgy yet stylish tops and dresses in cool designs, unique prints and rich colors. The clothes are made from imported, quality Spandex fabric, ensuring the wearer's comfort and satisfaction.

The brand, which started in 1997 by joining bazaars and occupying small kiosks around the metro, has spawned 10 branches all over Metro Manila. From its first permanent kiosk at the Alabang Town Center where its Spandex ladies shirts line became a hit, Get Laud! opened its second outlet at the Pavilion Mall in Biñan, Laguna. It has recently opened its first mainstream store at the Festival Supermall in Filinvest, Alabang.

Get Laud! has branches at the Alabang Town Center, Metropoint Mall-Pasay, Pavilion Mall-Biñan, Market! Market!-Global City, Goldcrest-Ayala Center Makati and 168 Mall-Divisoria. It will soon open outlets in Sta. Lucia Grand East Mall-Cainta, SM Lipa Batangas, SM Pampanga, New Farmer's Plaza-Cubao, Alabang Town Center-2.

GUINOO goes hip and chic with stylish tops and dresses from Get Laud!

ELITE Collection from Guess

Luxe eyewear

GUESS EYEWEAR OFFERS A LIMITED-edition sunglass gift set for the holiday season. The oversized wrap sunglass features clear crystals in an oversized "G" logo applique accented by handmade black acetate with bold zebra patterns on the inside. The custom-designed box set includes the Guess Elite sunglass, a cleaning cloth/pouch, and compact mirror, all coordinated with the distinct zebra print. The gift set will be available soon at all Guess retail stores and leading optical outlets nationwide.

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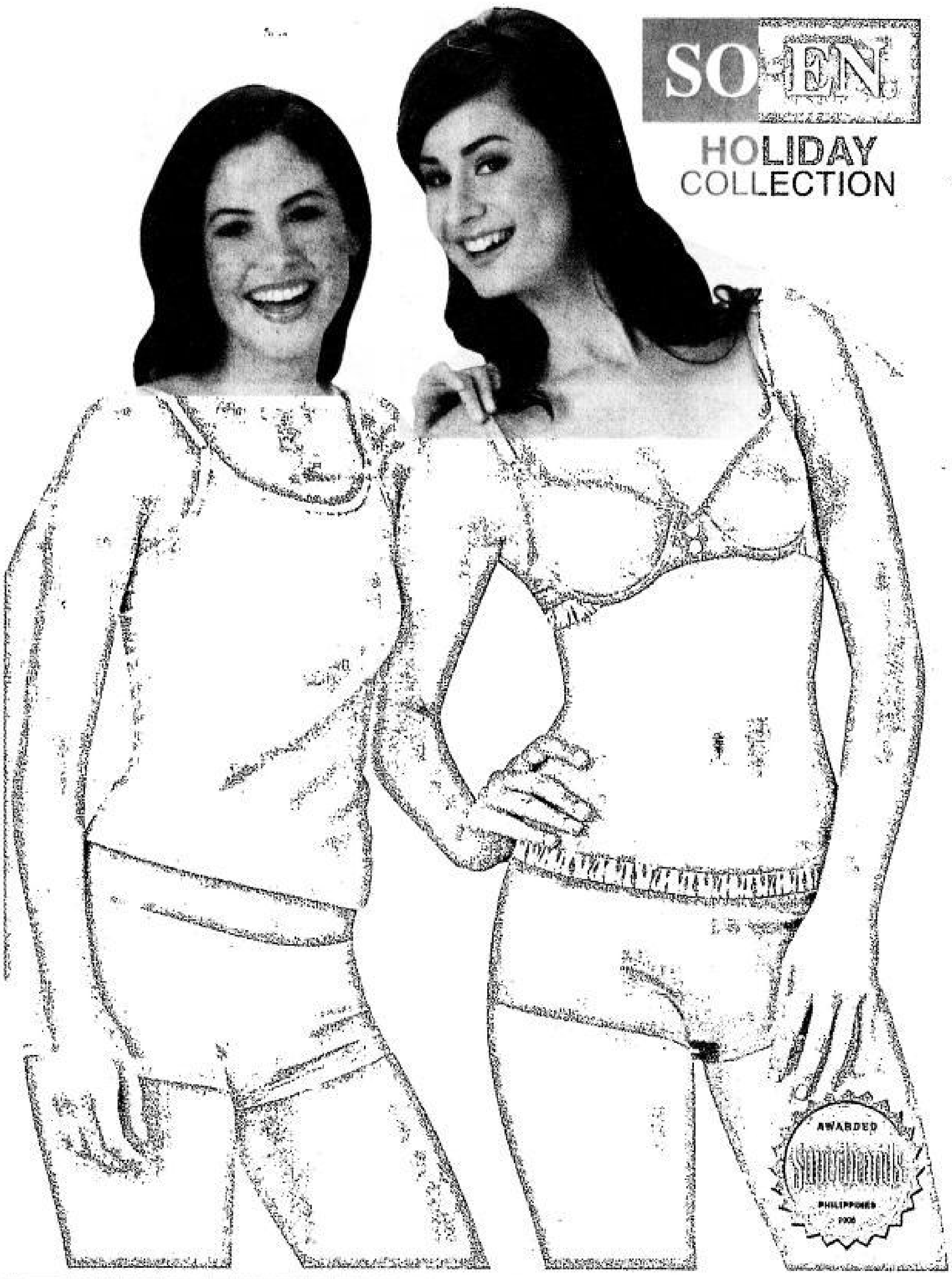

COLORFUL and artful bead accessories will be on sale at the Archaeology Area of Rockwell, Power Plant Mall on Dec. 8 and 9. This is made possible by the Beaders Link, featuring the works of Chita Araw who will feature her beaded bag creations; Dolly Borlongan with her Swarovski and rice pearl designs; Marga Endaya's unique bracelets; Tina Erum's rings, earrings and bracelets; Marichu Maceda's beaded belt lariats, bag charms and bracelets; and Tess Serrao's jewelry bags and utensils. In photo are Beaders Link officers Chita Araw, Marichu Maceda, Portia Eleene Leuterio, Tina Joaquin-Erum. Standing are Dolly Borlongan, Tess Joaquin Serrao, Kat Lalisan and Marga Andaya.

GOINGS ON

Centro Escolar University holds Christmas homecoming

ALL LIBERAL ARTS ALUMNI OF CENTRO ESCOLAR University are invited to the CEU 100th Christmas Homecoming Dec. 15, 4 p.m., at the CEU North Quadrangle. Theme is "Fun in Nostalgia at Christmastime!" CEU, which turned 100 years old in June, will honor centennial jubilarians. University president Ma. Cristina Padolina will deliver the homecoming address. A highlight of the event is the launch of the "CEU Centennial" coffee table book, a project of the CEU centennial committee led by Dr. Rosita Navarro and Dr. Paz I. Lucido, president of the CEU Alumni Foundation and project director. Call 735-9662, 735-6861 or 7368551 to 54 local 247.

HOLIDAY WEEKEND SALE. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall features "Holiday Weekend Sale" on Nov. 30-Dec. 2, Dec. 7-9 and Dec. 14-16. Get as much as 70-percent discount on selected items at the department store, supermarket, Home Gallery, Planet Toys and over 250 shops and specialty stores. With a P300 single or accumulated purchase receipts, a customer gets a chance to win appliances in the raffle draw. The supermarket's "Scratch Raffle Plus" promo is ongoing until Dec. 31. Every P500 worth of purchases entitles shoppers to a scratch card. Prizes include gift certificates and home appliances.

FREE REUSABLE BAG. Citibank credit card holders will receive a free GreenBag for every minimum P500 single-receipt purchase of yellow tag items at participating SM Supermarkets. The offer is valid until Nov. 30. GreenBags may be redeemed until Jan. 29. Bea Tan, Citibank's cards business director, said the campaign was designed to provide cardholders with a practical tool to help save the environment. Under the Citibank Free GreenBag promo, primary and supplementary cardholders will get a free bag upon presentation of proof of payment at claim counters in participating SM supermarkets.

FASHION SHOW. Giordano, retailer of quality ready-to-wear fashion for men and women will launch its December fall-winter collection with a fashion show dubbed "Beyond Basic," at the Music Hall of Mall of Asia, Pasay City, Nov. 30 at 7:15 p.m.

LAUNCHING. Anvil Publishing, Inc. and NBS Bestsellers will launch the third installment of the successful Ladlad series "Ladlad 3, An Anthology of Philippine Gay Writing" by J. Neil C. Garcia and Danton Remoto on Dec. 1, 5-7 p.m., at Bestsellers Ortigas in Robinson's Galleria.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENT SEMINAR RESET. The flower arrangement seminar of Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla will be held Dec. 12-16, instead of Dec. 5-9, 1-6 p.m., at Metts Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank corner EDSA and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Covered are Ikebana (Moribana and Shoka); Western style—all around or one-sided and L-shape, sourcing of materials and techniques of lengthening the vase life of flowers; free style, buffet centerpieces for Christmas and flower shop operations. All materials will be provided (939-4593/435-2479 or 0917-8321352; e-mail mettsplants@yahoo.com.ph).

UP HIGH HOMECOMING. The University of the Philippines High School Class '57 will hold its Golden Jubilee Dec. 5-8. Activities for Dec. 5-7 are being handled by Jubilee Class coordinators headed by Ernie Marcelo, class president. Francis de Borja will host a welcome dinner on Dec. 5, 6 p.m. The general alumni homecoming will be held Dec. 8 at the UP Integrated School campus. Registration will start at 2 p.m. Host of this year's reunion is Class '82 (922-6997, 995-1261, 831-7145; goldenuphigh-57@yahoogroups.com.

'BELEN-MAKING' CONTEST. Rustan's Supermarkets hold a crèche-making contest, with an earth-friendly slant. Crèche is French for crib. Participants in the contest will have to make original Belen out of indigenous, organic and recyclable materials. Winners will be showcased in a special window gallery at Rustan's Rockwell. Prizes include P50,000, first; P30,000, second; and P15,000, third. Registration is ongoing at Rustan's Supermarket Fresh branches until Dec. 17.

Rustan's Fresh Supermarkets are in Ayala Center, Makati; Rockwell Powerplant Mall; Gateway Mall, Cubao; Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa; Greenbelt 1; San Antonio Plaza, Forbes Park; Magallanes; Katipunan Road and Corinthian Hills.

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LIFESTYLE

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FASHION

Model behavior

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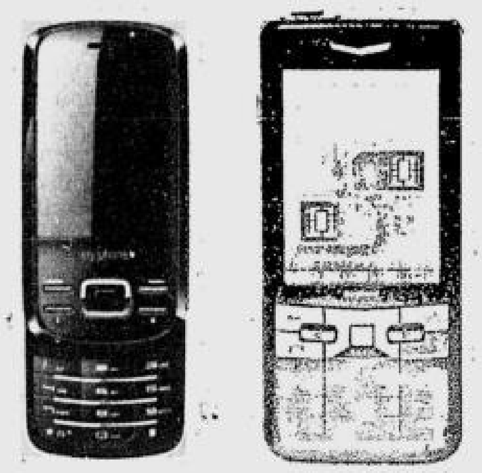

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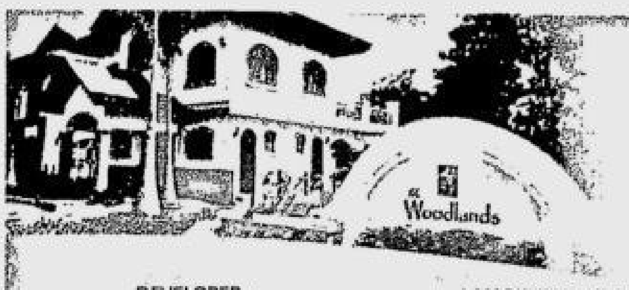

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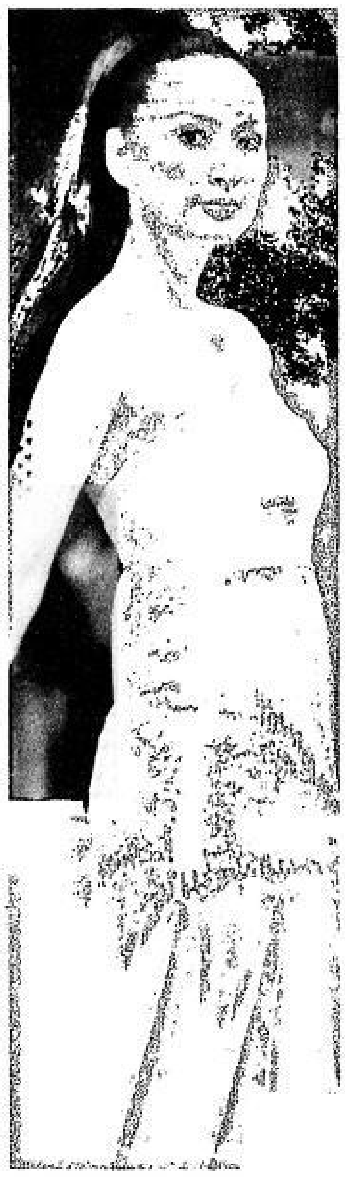
THE CURRENT batch of PMAP models at curtain call

Model behavior

Samsung presents "Ramp Review: Twenty Years of PMAP" on Dec. 1, 8:30 p.m., on the Lifestyle Network



MODEL turned TV host Phoemela Barranda in Rhett Eala

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

THE MODELING WORLD IS NOT the shallow and backstabbing scene it's often perceived to be. It's not a snake pit, mind you. We don't catfight or steal each other's boyfriends (save for an incident or two). Fact is, the models I know are supportive of each other and are actually friends.

Neither is the scene inhabited by bimbos and himbos. Kill the hilarious but over-the-top Zoolander stereotype please. The truth of the matter is, give or take a few exceptions, models are a talented, creative lot.

My colleagues like Myrza Sison, now Marie Claire editor-in-chief, Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, who's created her own jewelry line called Ice Crystals, and Gem Padilla, who put up her own marketing and promotional design consultancy, have more than proven this point.

Do you want to take a closer look at the intriguing, exciting world of Manila's top models? Now's your chance to do so, as Samsung presents an hour-long TV special dubbed "Ramp Review: Twenty Years of PMAP" on Dec. 1, 8:30 p.m., on the Lifestyle Network.

Witness an evening of nostalgia, camaraderie, fashion and fun as five batches of the Professional Models Association of the Philippines—from founding members Leo Rabago, Desiree Verdadero-Abesamis and Ping Fideris, to name a few, to model of the moment Mia Ayesa—take to the runway and effortlessly flaunt creations by some of the country's top designers.

Find out how fashion show director Jackie C. Aquino put together this extra-grand celebration, as you catch vignettes of rehearsals, the general chaos backstage and the much-awaited show.

Past presidents like Ronnie Asuncion, JB Abesamis, Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, Den Abesamis, Grace Molina and Baba Parma also share interesting trivia and thoughts on PMAP's 20 years. PMAP was actually established to help improve working conditions for models here in the Philippines and to protect models' rights while standardizing rates and disciplining its ranks.

Naturally, its goals have evolved through the years, adapting to the times and current state of the industry. According to current president Rissa Samson, the success of PMAP's 20th year bash is a testament to the association's endurance as a moving force in the fashion scene.

For this most special event, PMAP members from all over the world also came back home to join the festivities. Bea Recto-Agnir and Mellany Carlos-Hay jetted in from Japan and Singapore, respectively. Nol Cueto, Den Abesamis and Farrah Carbonell-Vlasov all flew in from New York, while Maricris Perez came all the way from Florida. Rachel Soriano and Nicolette Bell also flew in from the Middle East to join the show.

The celebration would not have been complete without the participation of 20 of Manila's most sought after designers who have all figured largely in PMAP's history.

Led by fashion masters Auggie Cordero and Inno Sotto, the A-list includes Ivarluski Aseron, Avel Bacudio, Vittorio, Mike de la Rosa, Patrice Ramos Diaz, Rhett Eala, Lulu Tan Gan, Antonio Garcia, Marden Iglesias, Gerry Katigbak, Rajo Laurel, Jojie Lloren, Dennis Lustico, Anthony Nocom, Randy Ortiz, Frederick Peralta, Renee Salud, and Joey Samson.

Top makeup artist Patrick Rosas and his team were also present to transform the models into true-to-life ramp divas with strong brows and smoky eyes.

Experience glamour and glitz as you watch "Ramp Review: Twenty Years of PMAP." But do also revel in the unity and camaraderie that's evident throughout the show. At the end of the day, friendships born out of common goals, a passion for one's profession and respect for each other are the things that truly matter.

Catch "Ramp Review: Twenty Years of PMAP" on Dec. 1, 8:30 p.m., on the Lifestyle Network.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

RAFAEL Kiefer in Anthony Nocom

ORNUSSA Cadness in Vittorio

ISABEL Roces in Jojie Lloren

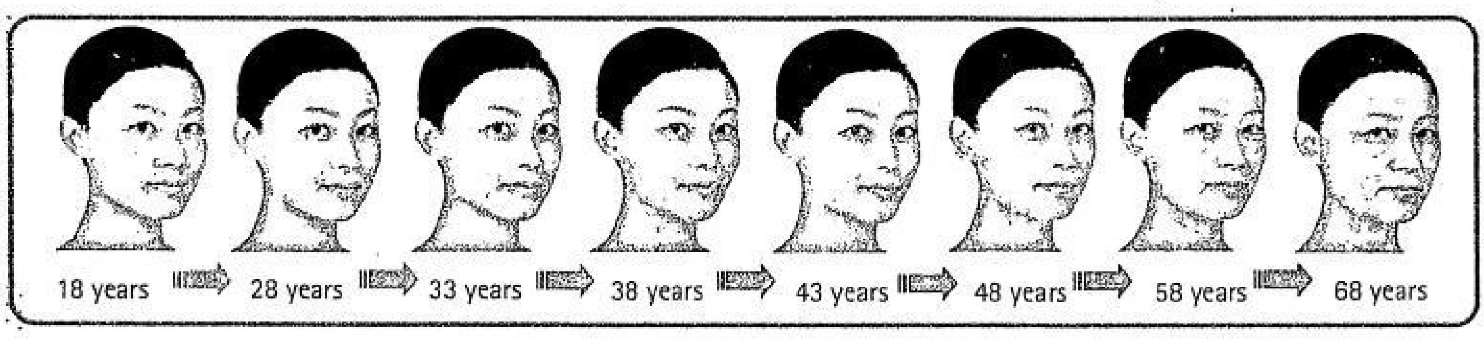
DESIREE Verdadero-Abesamis, back on the catwalk in a Rene Salud creation

MODEL turned actor John Estrada in Randy Ortiz

FOUNDING members Ronnie Asuncion, Ping Fideris, Desiree Verdaro-Abesamis, Suyene Chi-Sia, Tina Maristela-Ocampo and Izza Gonzales-Agana with current president Rissa Samson

Prediction of skin ageing for Asian women

L'Oreal Research has carried out an unprecedented investigation of Asian women's skin in order to understand the ageing process at every age.
220 Asian women from 18 to 68 years old were evaluated. 20 most relevant clinical signs were then chosen and linked with the ages of the women.



The women's skin predictive morphing is the first prediction of skin ageing for Asian women. It is based on 3 levels of in-depth expertise: the L'Oreal Research Evaluation Department, anatomo-clinical expertise from a plastic surgeon and Asian dermatologist and technical imagery (transition of scientific data into visual demonstration).

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ON ALONA: Jasper Conan Embellished Hem Tunic in Black, Red Herring Graduated Croc Textured Hoop, Debenhams Ladder Resist 15 Denier Tights. On Daniel: Rocha.John Rocha Long Sleeve Epilette Waffle Shirt and Jasper Conran Jeans and Belt. On Nathan: Jasper Conran Cotton Pleated V-Neck, Jasper Conran Long Sleeve Fine Stripe Shirt, Rocha.John Rocha Blue Waffle Trouser. On Bianca: Red Herring Pink Dress

Stylish finds for the whole family

DEBENHAMS PRESENTS ITS holiday collection for the whole family, from party-ready outfits to picture-perfect attires for every member of the brood.

For moms, Debenhams has a variety of dresses, cardigans and tunics from hot in-house brands such as Debut, J. Taylor and Collection. And of course, fabulous designer ensembles from Matthew Williamson, Julien MacDonald and Jasper Conran that can be worn from the office Christmas party to the yearly dinner with the in-laws.

For added sparkle, Debenhams has Red Herring accessories like metallic beaded and gold chain link necklaces, plus an assortment of multi-charm bracelets. Moms will definitely look extra stylish wearing a pair of black or metallic tights with Debenhams' wide range of adorable mini dresses.

The store also offers a wide array of women's shoes, from comfortable ballet flats to pumps that will surely add a touch of glamour to any outfit.

For dads, the store has classic striped polos from in-house brand Maine and trousers from Rocha.John Rocha—perfect for all the corporate events during this hectic season. But for a more casual get-up, check out garments like v-neck shirts, cardigans and chinos. Dads will love the wide selection of value knitwear from in-house brand Red Herring and jumpers from designer brand Rocha.John Rocha. They will also enjoy slipping into comfortable cardigans like the Jasper Conran merino wool or the lambs wool cardigan from Maine, which go perfectly with extra comfy chinos. These comfortable yet very stylish pieces will surely keep dads warm during chilly nights.

Don't forget the kids! Slip your little girl into an adorable Antoni + Alison red print flower dress and she's ready to open those presents in style while the doting parents are clicking away. Garb your little boy in a Red Herring basic gray v-neck, brown argyle polo and bedford cord trousers and he's ready to pose for pictures with Santa or be the star in the Christmas party at school.

Visit Debenhams at the third level of Shangri-la Plaza Mall or at the 3rd level of Rustan's Makati, Glorietta 4, and its newest branch at the second level of Trinoma.

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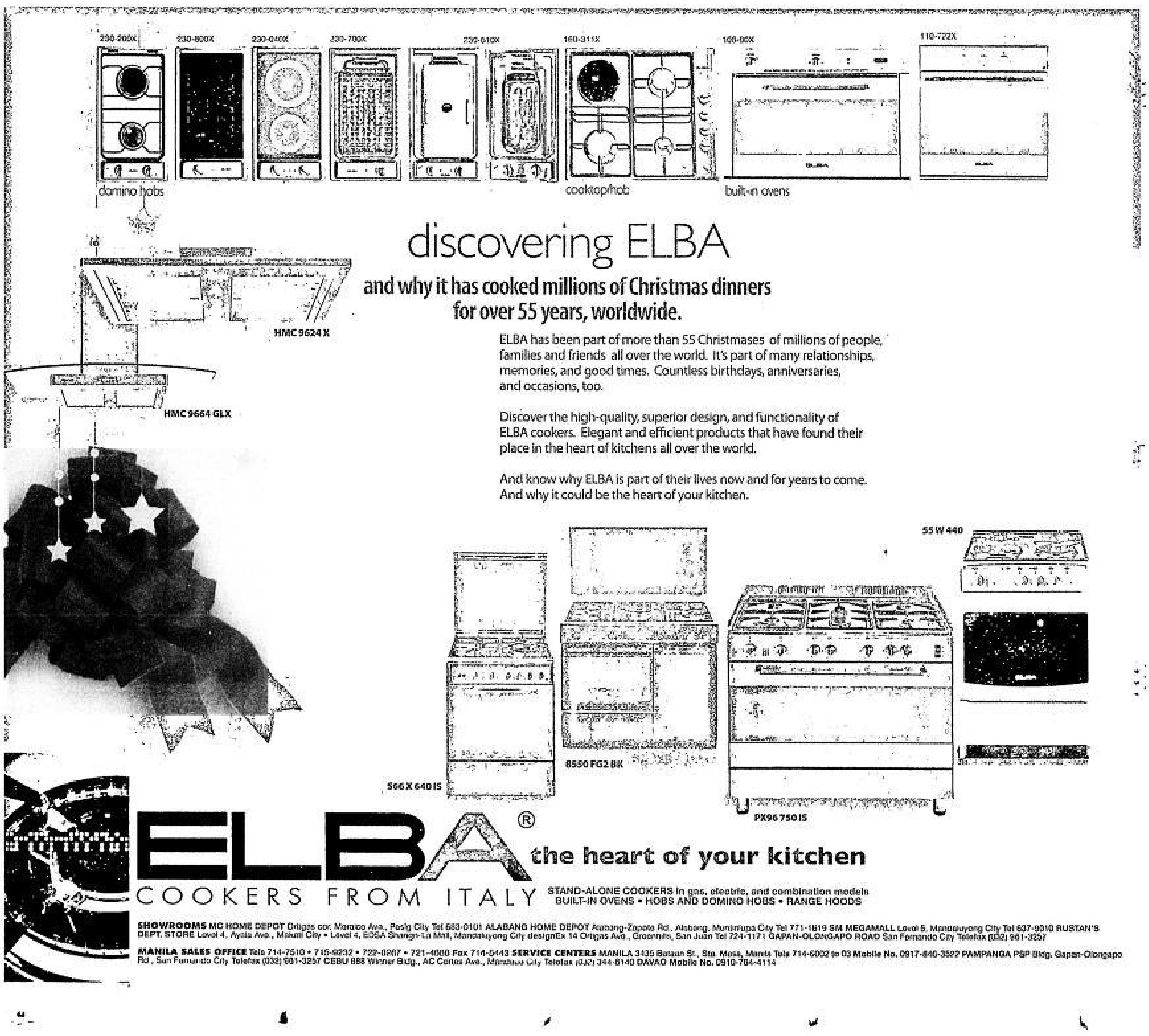

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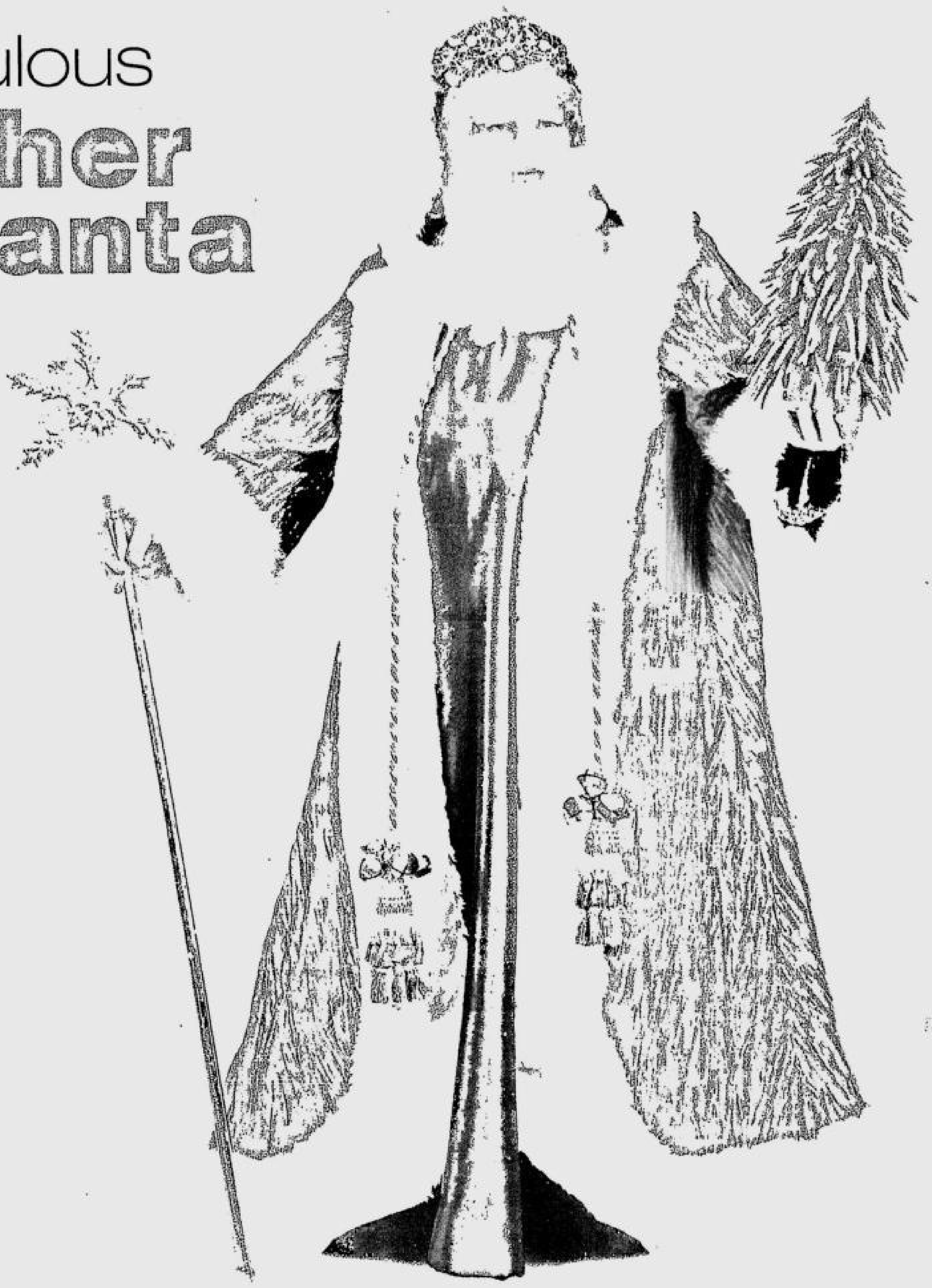

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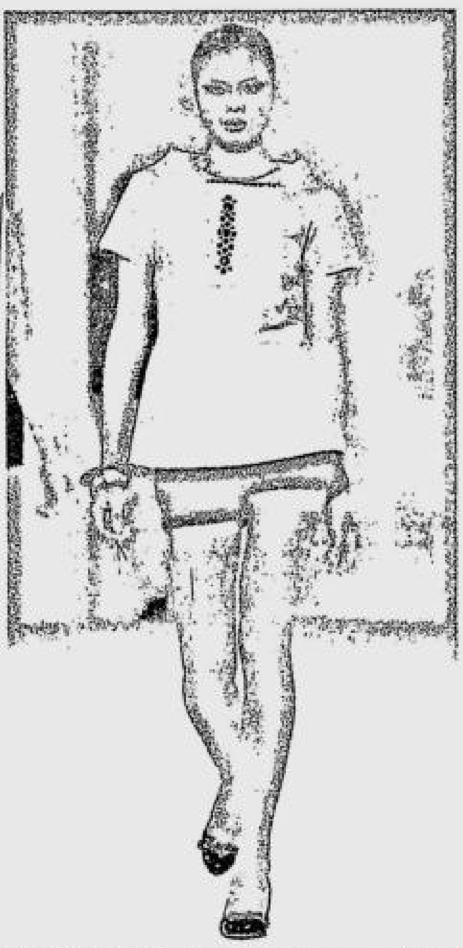


COCKTAIL CUTIE. Put a spin to your cocktail outfit with a chic top and short shorts.

Jenni Epperson

THEY SAY THAT THOSE WHO DO NOT remember the past are doomed to repeat it. In fashion, however, the past is an infinite wellspring of inspiration for constant reinvention and recreation.

One of my favorite designers, Ivar Aseron, is taking us all on a time warp once again with his take on this year's Folded & Hung Holiday Collection.

You may get some traces of "Beowulf" here. He draws from the medieval era for this collection. Folded & Hung, which began as a small yet exciting enterprise in 1998, now has over 30 stores all over the country and is a leading retailer of men and women's fashion. FH is known for its out-of-the-box collaborations with various style icons and trendsetters.

This is the second year in a row that Ivar is collaborating with FH. Last year, he designed the Holiday Luxe Collection.

The designer said that when he designed the collection, he had in mind the typical FH woman who is fashionable, confident, and sexy yet practical. (That practicality is reflected in the reasonable price tags, with pieces ranging from P699 to P1,300.)

More importantly, he wanted the clothes to be relaxed and versatile, so women could be free to mix and match the pieces with their existing wardrobe. As such, the collection as a whole radiates a feminine, sensual allure, combining medieval details with modern variations.

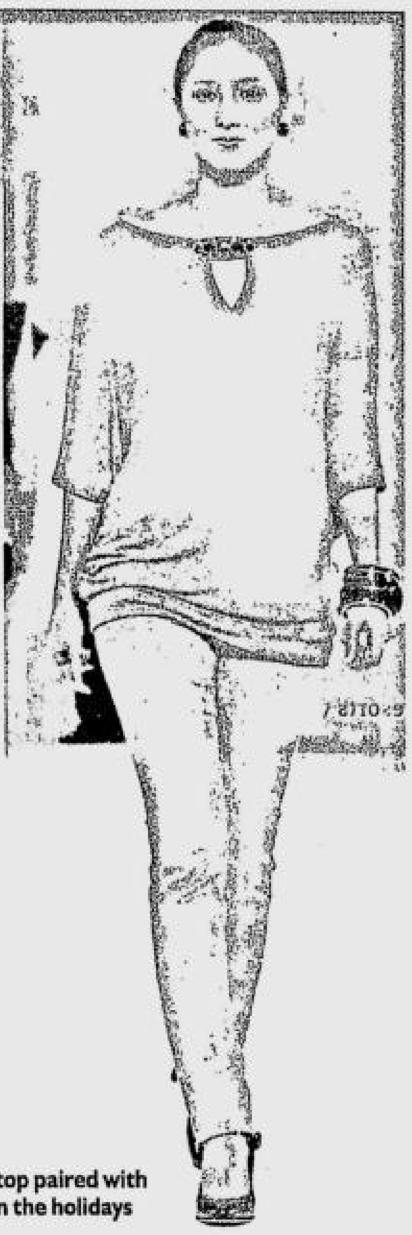
What to expect this year? For the color palette, look forward to classic black dominating the holiday ensembles, along with teal, dove gray, magenta and mustard. Silhouettes have a desirable soft volume that are cut away from the body. Tops have interesting variations in metallic jersey—which give that impression of armor—along with stretched cotton and poplin cut to accentuate the neck, shoulders and upper chest. They either softly drape at the bottom or gather at the lower hip.

Other details reflecting the period are found in the necklines, plackets and pockets, which are accentuated by textured black leaves of faux gems. Pants are either slim or cut wide at the leg, and come in satin stretched twill or denim.

Though the collection is inspired by the Middle Ages, I believe it evokes a classic feminine style, and that is truly timeless. We must always learn from the past, after all.

(Ivar Aseron's collection is available at selected FH stores: Mall of Asia, Megamall, The Block, TriNoma, The Shop, Robinsons Ermita, Shangri-La, Galleria and Gateway Mall Store.)

Ivar Aseron is taking us all on a time warp once again with his 'modern-medieval' take on this year's Folded & Hung Holiday Collection



NEW WAVE. Fuschia top paired with aqua pants to brighten the holidays

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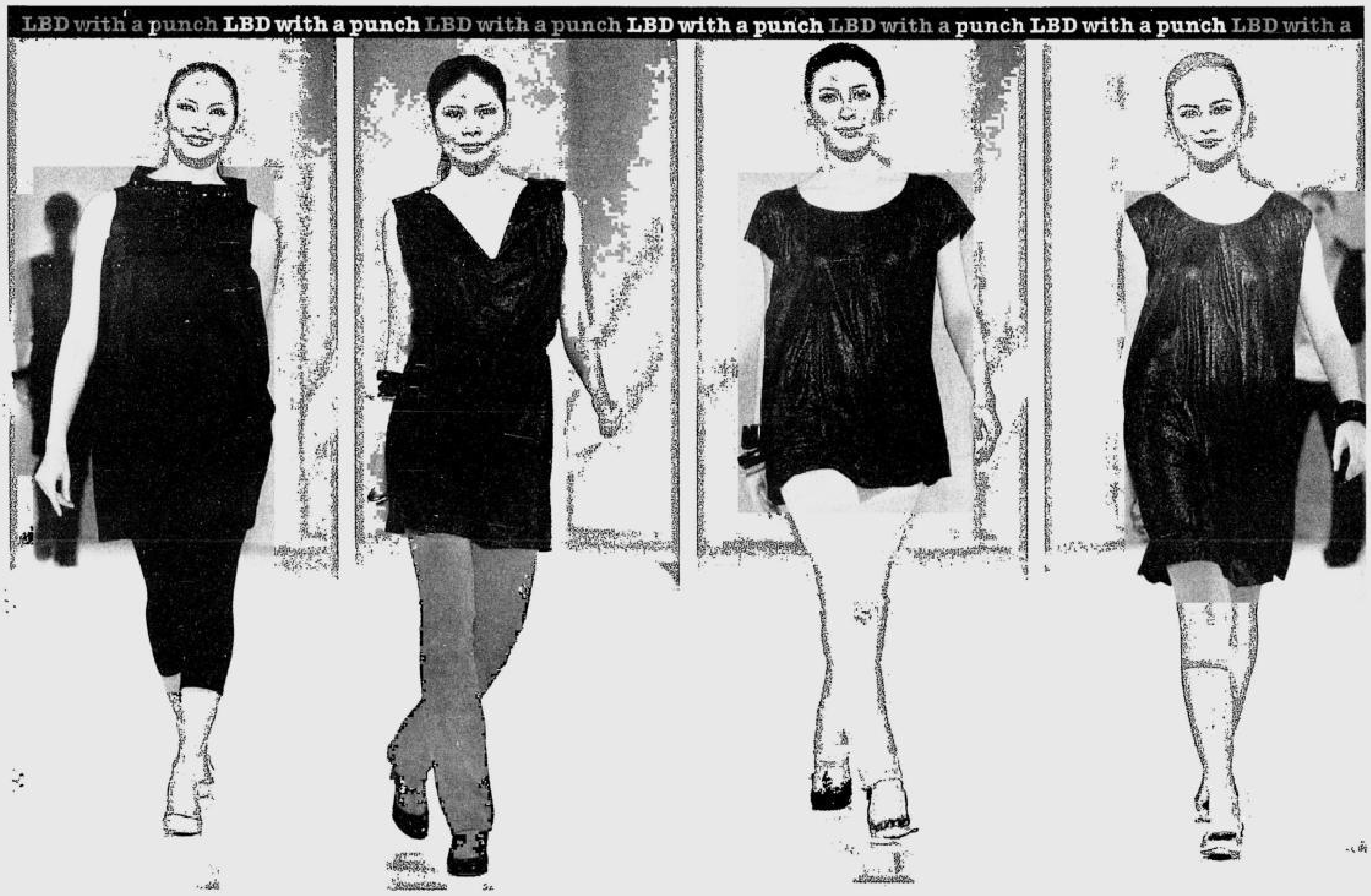


CHASIN' CHINA. The winter festivals in China won't be half as enjoyable without the snug protection and topnotch technology offered by the Luna Glow Fleece Hoody and Steens Mountain Sweater from Columbia Sportswear.

Gear up for a white Christmas

WHAT WOULD A WHITE Christmas actually feel like?

For a tropical country like the Philippines, snowball-fighting and snowman-making fantasies can remain just that—fantasies. Unless of course you board a plane and travel thousands of miles towards those parts of the world wrapped in the icy embrace of winter.

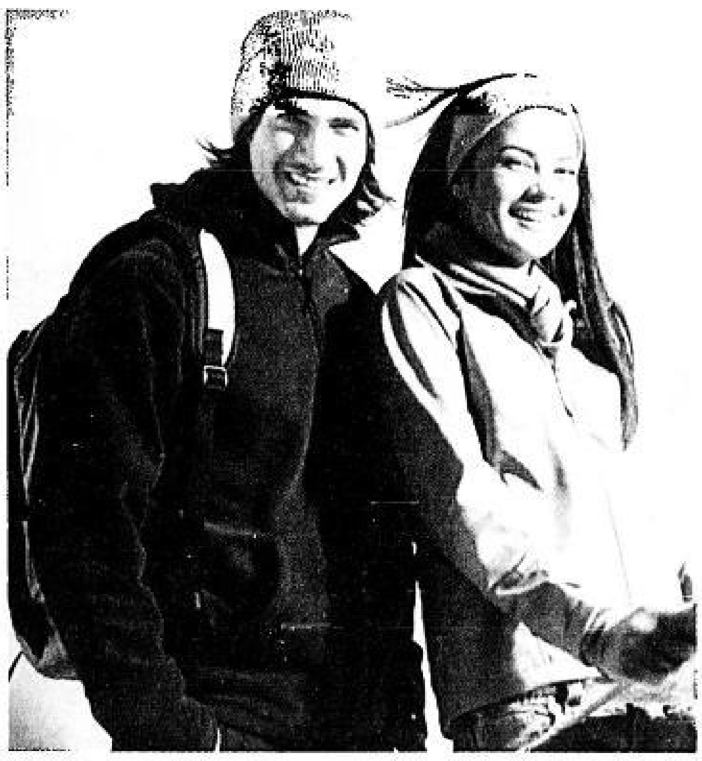
The luxurious mountain resorts of Aspen, the ice sculpturing haven in Manchuria and the scenic slopes of the Charmonix Valley are only some of the winter wonderlands that await savvy travelers.

Yet, even the fanciest of ski resorts will make you want to come rushing for the warmth of home in minutes—if you're not geared up with the most important of travel essentials: tough sportswear that offers utmost protection.

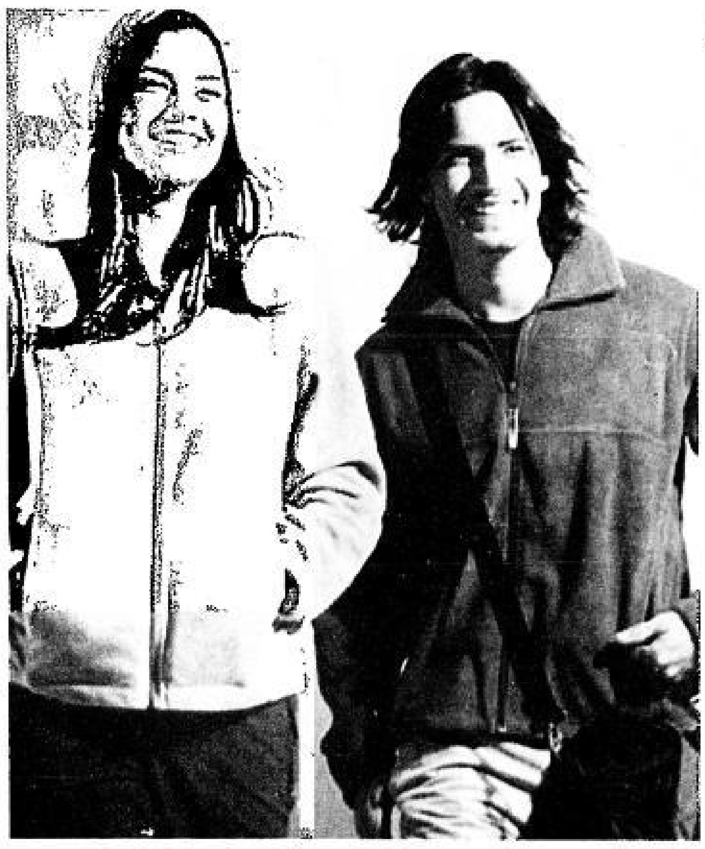
Columbia Sportswear Company, one of the world's largest outerwear brands and the leading seller of skiwear in the United States, introduces its Fall/Winter Collection for 2007. This latest collection is crafted with the standards of toughness and quality that Columbia Sportswear has been renowned for worldwide.

Columbia Sportswear's latest technologies bring new performance and protection to your outdoor wardrobe, while the variety of looks adds versatility and cross-over appeal to your different activity needs.

Regardless of whether you're a certified outdoor athlete, nature lover or weekend warrior, the Columbia Sportswear Fall/Winter Collection for 2007 has something just right for you.



STYLISH SERIES. The wide range of styles from Columbia Sportswear adds versatility and cross-over appeal to your different activity needs.



WINTER wear crafted with customary toughness and quality

"I went from a waist size of 28 1/2 to 25 inches without the hassle!*"

– Authentic customer statement, 25 June 2007 (not a paid endorsement)

"After 5 sessions of tummy and side treatments, I noticed a flatter and trimmer stomach. Thanks to Zunic, I never felt more confident and sexy!" says this same client.

A male client who was generous enough to share his experience also told us, "As a yoga instructor, I know first-hand that some parts of our body can be stubborn, no matter how often you work out. I'll feel better about pigging out for dinner tonight, knowing that some of the fat has been burned off!"

Before treatment

After 45 minutes

Another client said, "I didn't even know these kinds of treatments existed until now. I'm really satisfied with the results!"

So whether you're feeling sluggish or just want to get back into shape, come to Zunic. At Zunic, we aim to deliver immediate results (often in as little as 45 minutes), with as little fuss as possible.

Find out how the latest advances in medical technology can help you reduce weight and actually shape your body without exercise, dieting, pills, injections or painful surgery. Experience how weight loss is achieved while you relax and stretch out comfortably — without the sweating, anxiety, and pain associated with traditional methods.

Gentlemen appreciate Zunic's results-oriented approach to body sculpting too!

Book now! Consultations are free, and are held in strict confidence.

Special Holiday Treat

Come in for a FREE consultation and get the chance to win Php50,000 worth of exclusive body sculpting treatments! Book your appointment now!

Body by Zunic slimming & body sculpting

*Like most Zunic clients, [illegible] respect that. Her comments, however, may be viewed on page [illegible] of the Comment Journal at the lobby of Zunic's Quezon City center.

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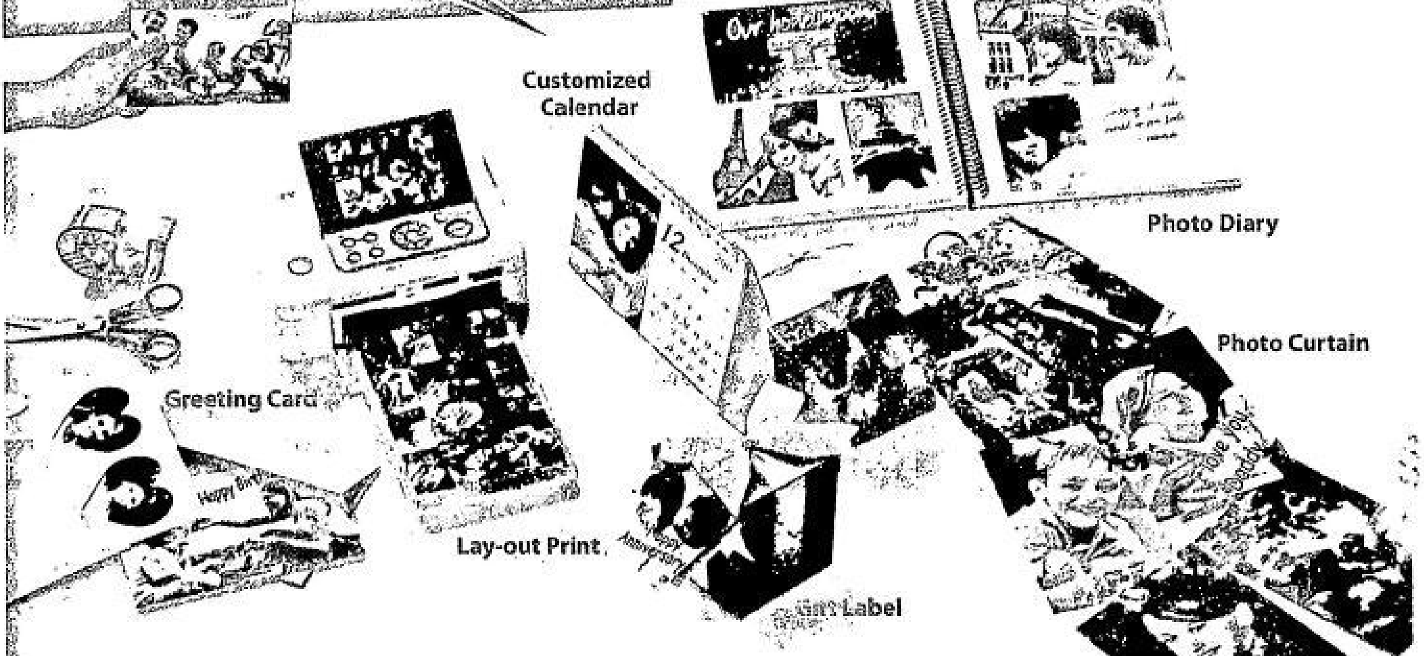

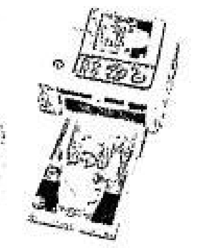

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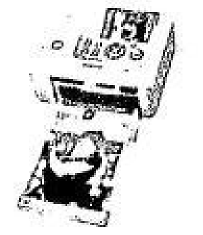

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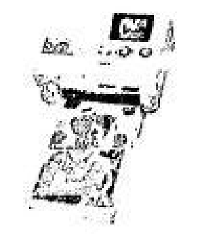

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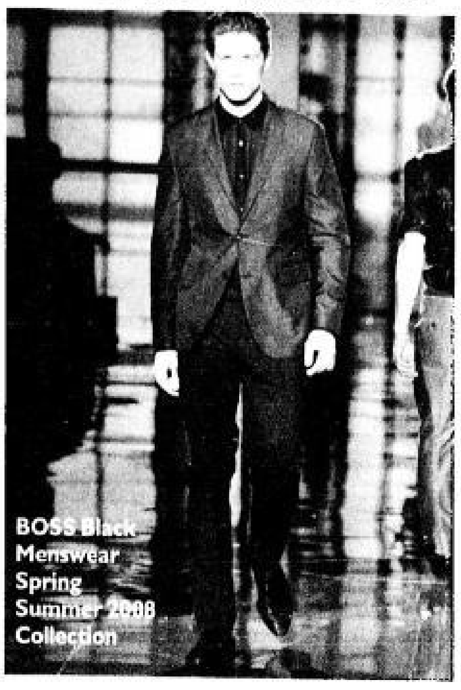
Hugo Boss hosts Boss Black fashion show in New York

BOSS Black Womenswear Spring Summer 2008 Collection

ON THE EVENING OF OCT. 17, HUGO Boss is presenting the Spring/Summer 2008 collection of its Boss Black line in New York City. Some 600 invited guests from around the world—including Julianne Moore and Anthony Hopkins—are expected to attend the event, which will be held at the imposing, neo-classical Cunard Building in Manhattan's financial district.

Thirty-five international top models, among them current campaign models Catherine McNeal and Mathias Lauridsen, will be showcasing mens- and womenswear from Boss Black. Illuminated from within, the catwalk has been integrated seamlessly into the church-like interior with its sandstone-colored columns.



BOSS Black Menswear Spring Summer 2008 Collection

Designed by Creative Director Ingo Wilts under the stylistic headline "The New Moderns," the collection represents contemporary classics, consummate looks and exceptional quality. For several years now, the Boss Black menswear with its hallmark black-and-white logo has been rounded out by a womenswear collection that makes a distinctive feminine statement all its own. Taken as a whole, the Boss Black fashions for men and women personify a symbiosis of rationality and sensuality, clean aesthetics, and urban sophistication. Boss Black is both timeless and up-to-date.

The concept behind the New York fashion event captures the character of the collection in all its facets, staging juxtaposed styles with utmost sophistication. Beautiful interior elements in the lounge area, including black carpets and Chesterfield furnishings, contrast with geometric light installations composed of blue neon tubes. And while the elegant atmosphere in the lounge is accompanied by the surprise gig of a popular New York jazz band, the show area will later host the hot rock/new wave/pop performers The Misshapes.

At the after-show dinner party, creature comforts will be supplied by the New York-based caterer Glorious Food in the shape of a flying buffet, bars and various food stations.

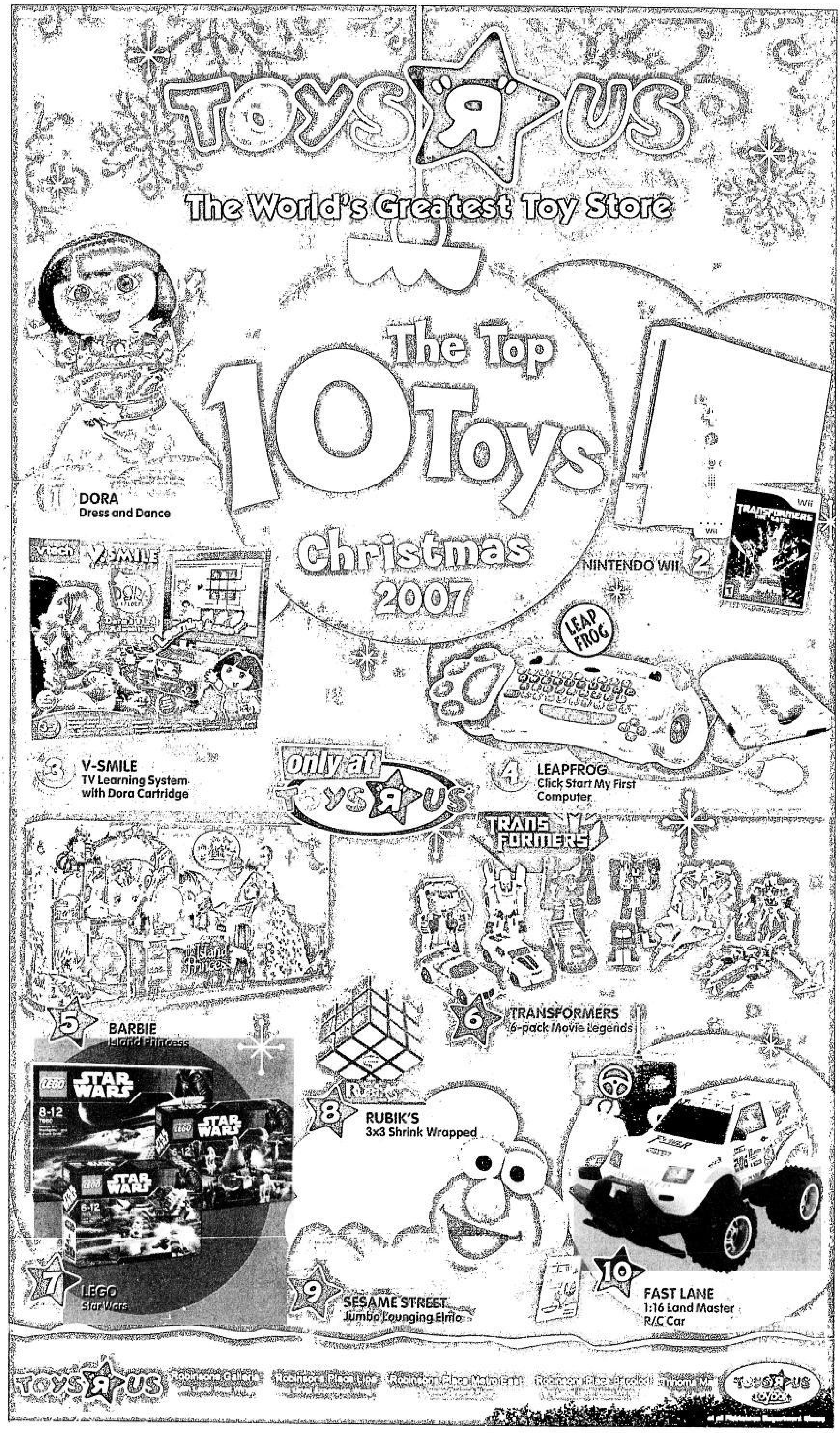
Locating the Boss Black presentation for Summer 2008 in New York reflects a policy decision on the part of the Hugo Boss Group, in line with its strategy of showing its three largest fashion collections—Boss Black, Boss Orange and Hugo—separately each year within the scope of major fashion events in world capitals.

Hugo Boss Director of Communication Philipp Wolff: "New York City is second to none for its triad of fashion, modernity and zeitgeist. This fashion event is designed to stress the identity of the Boss Black collections and simultaneously underscore the significance of the US market for all the Hugo Boss collections."

Hugo Boss is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. The boutiques are located at Greenbelt 4 and Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

BOSS HUGO BOSS
BOSS HUGO BOSS
BOSS HUGO BOSS
BOSS HUGO BOSS

KATE Winslet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TRANSFORMERS
5 BARBIE
Island Princess
6 TRANSFORMERS
6-pack Movie Legends
7 LEGO
Star Wars
8 RUBIK'S
3x3 Shrink Wrapped
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Jumbo Lounging Elmo
10 FAST LANE
1:16 Land Master R/C Car
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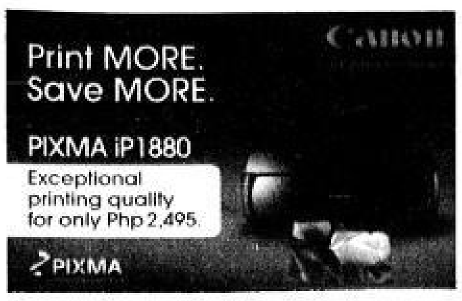
Robinsons Galleria
TOYS "R" US



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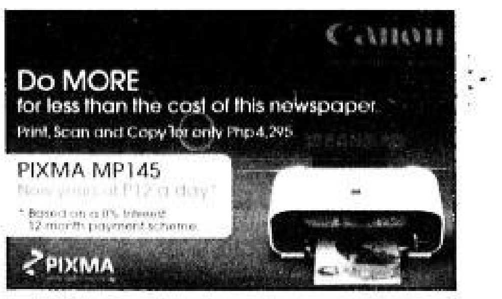

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FASHION

BLACK perspecs slingbacks (P1,299); glittered silver peep-toe platforms, held on hand (P1,099); transparent plastic belt with silver trim (P299)

Time for heel-ing

KICKSTART YOUR HOLIDAY wardrobe with Wade—chic, streamlined, sexy footwear and accessories that define ultra modern and simple luxe.

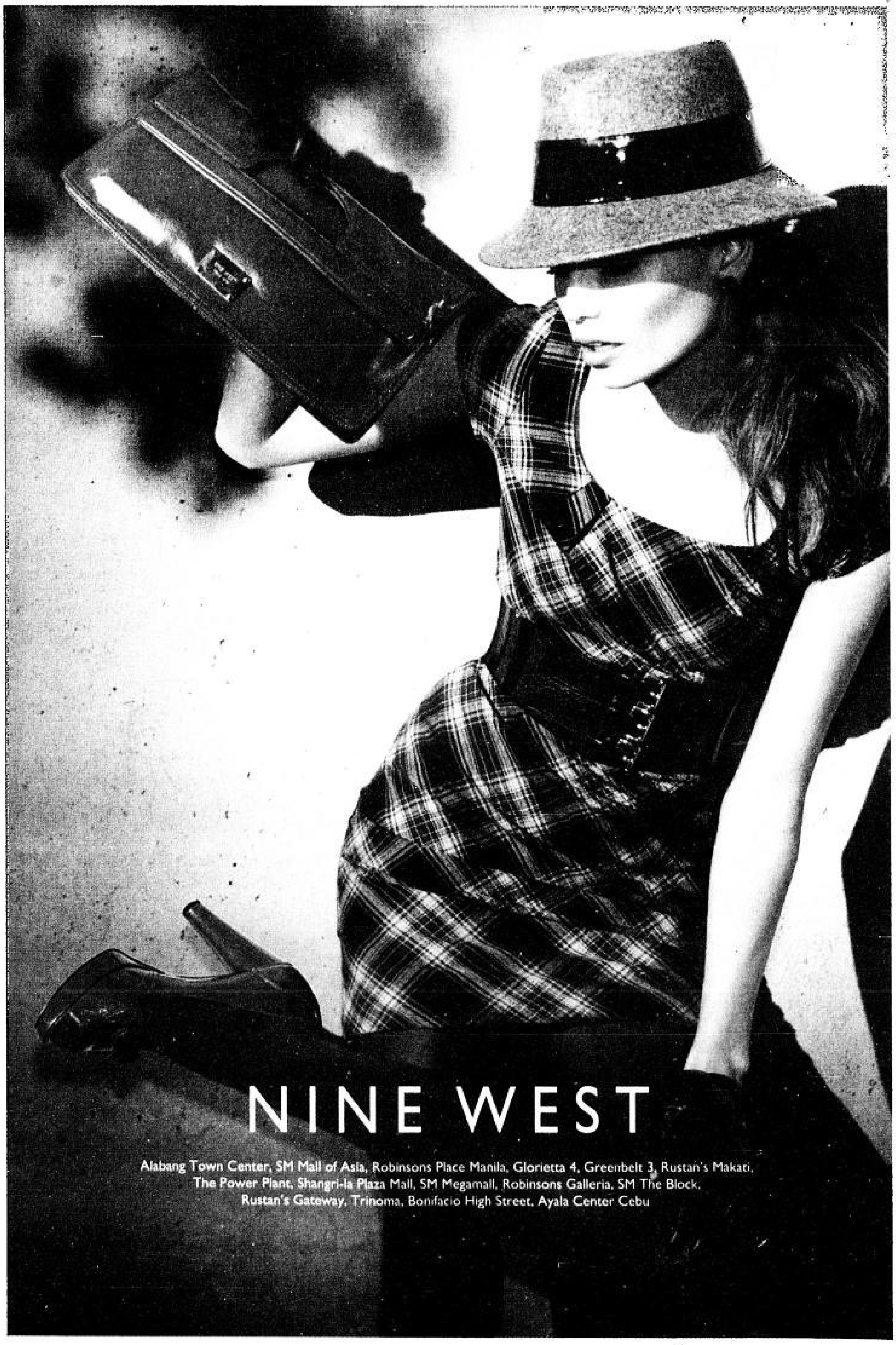
Spoil yourself with plaid platforms and textured pumps with mile-high stacked or coned heels that go from day to night. Stand pretty and show those pretty peds, in perspecs (plastic-strapped) peep-toe wedges and slingbacks with lucite heels.

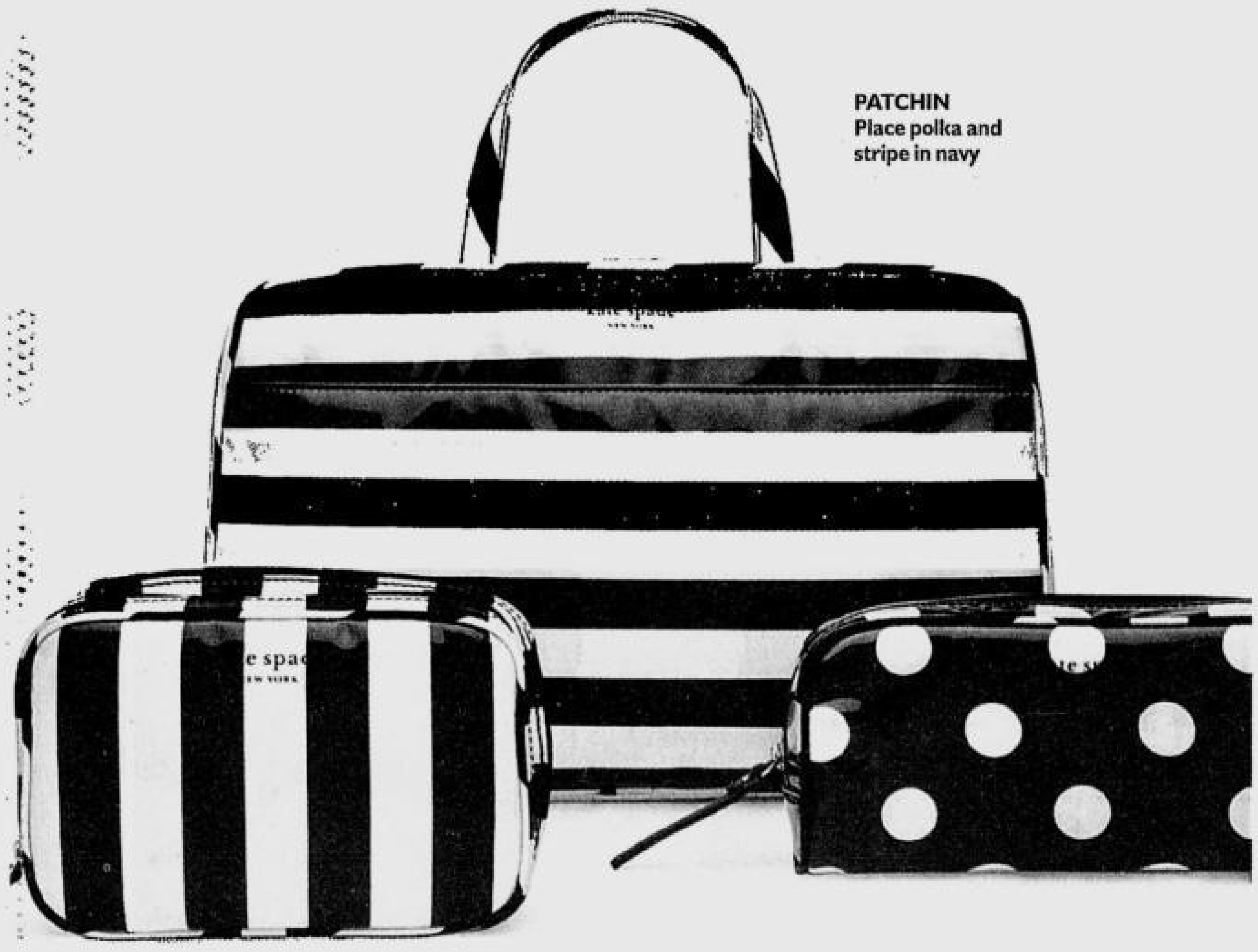
If you can't get enough of patent gloss, try a red and black combo—fiery hot for the party season. Pile on a set of black bangles and sling on a polished red bag for an evening affair to remember. Outshine them all in every party with metallic pieces in gold or silver.

Wade is located at the 2/F Bldg. A, SM Megamall; 4/L The Block, SM City North Edsa; G/L Main Mall, SM Mall of Asia; G/F SM City Clark, Pampanga; G/L Padre Faura Wing, Robinsons Place Manila; 3/L East Wing, Robinsons Galleria; The Shops, Unimart, Greenhills; G/F Alimall, Araneta Center; 3/L Glorietta 2, Ayala Center; L/M-1 Ayala TriNoma; G/F Gaisano Mall of Davao. Soon to open at SM City Manila, SM Southmall and SM City Taytay.

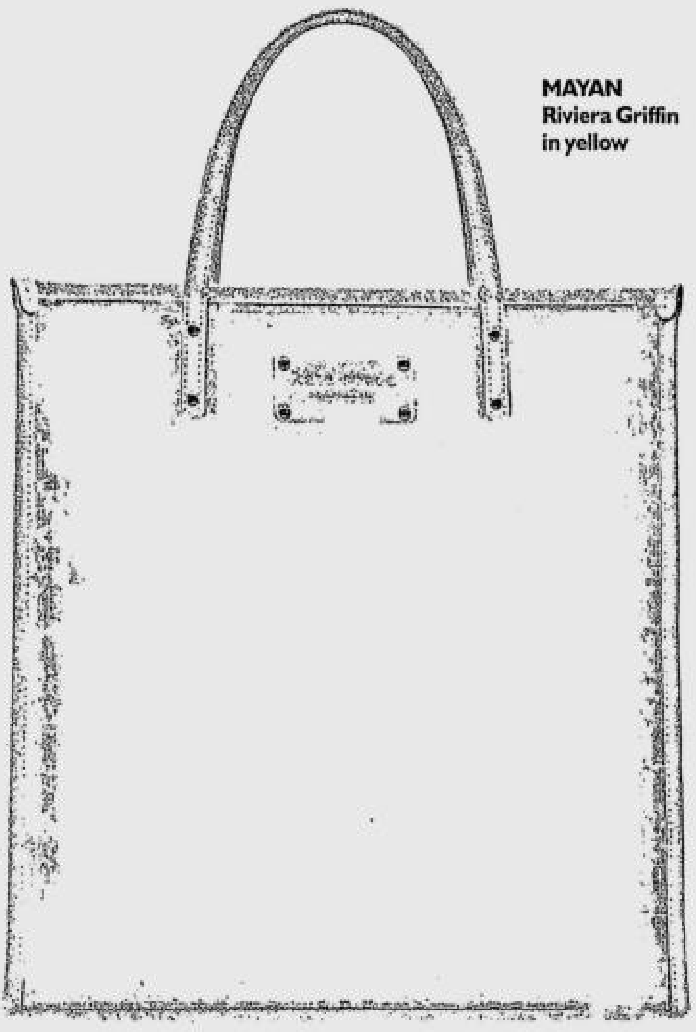
Scarlet leather

I'm every woman
White patent wedges (P899); white faux croc bag with gold rivets (P999); silver chain belt, used as necklace (P299); white plastic bangle (P189); transparent bangle with white polka dots (P189); wristwatch (P399)


NINE WEST
Alabang Town Center, SM Mall of Asia, Robinsons Place Manila, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3, Rustan's Makati, The Power Plant, Shangri-la Plaza Mall, SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, SM The Block, Rustan's Gateway, Trinoma, Bonifacio High Street, Ayala Center Cebu

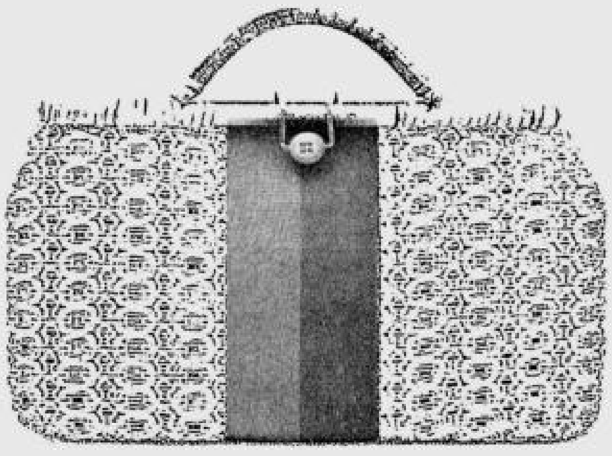


PATCHIN
Place polka and stripe in navy

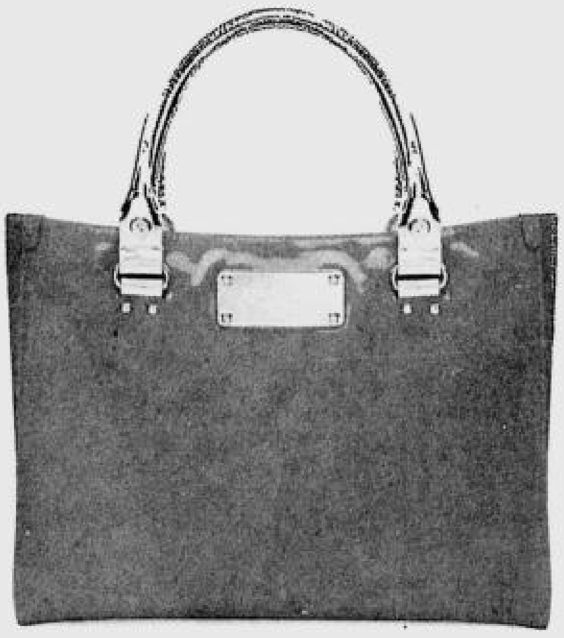


MAYAN
Riviera Griffin in yellow

Bag that holiday style



MALLORCA Selby in natural



BILBAO Quinn in red

KATE SPADE'S HOLIDAY 2007 collection evokes shimmering winter cheer, led by Kent, a group of exclusive leather handbags inspired by the gentle luxury and exceptional craftsmanship of a bygone era and named for the fabled English countryside retreat.

New Canaan's tumbled cowhide handbags, with their buckle detailing and simple leather finishes, are another classic take for the season.

Adding a shot of color and glitter to the winter palette are Bilbao, Andalusia, Belle Isle and Fillmore Street, which all offer brilliant hues in patent leather, metallics and printed calfskin.

Meanwhile, Marais and Piazzetta bring more color and luxurious patterns to the holidays in sophisticated animal prints.

Iona, meanwhile, is a holiday twist on the timeless tote with a leather winter flower applique, while License Plate Canvas is a more graphic take on the tote in screen printed red and green canvas.

Offerings inspired by enduring New England cottage communities and lush island escapes include the wicker and basketweave groups Little Compton, Chilmark, and the returning Tisbury.

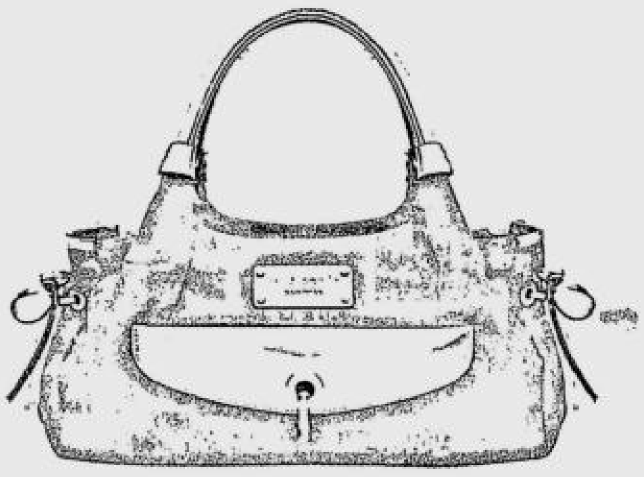
Also in this group are the straw woven Mallorca and electric pink, yellow and green PVC woven Mayan Riviera. Finally, Hilton Head twists classic silk tie materials into preppy-chic clutches.

The popular Clinton Street group returns in multicolor and metallic—now called Pop Clinton Street—while Kate's signature Noel graphic gets some playfully modern treatments in Gansevoort Noel, in leather trimmed PVC.

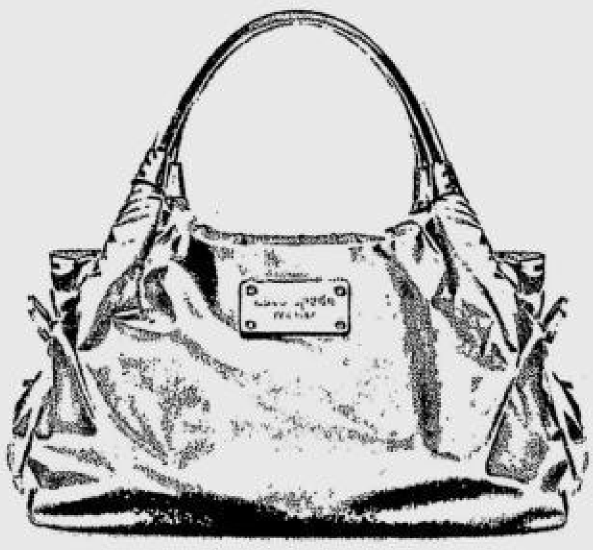
Brilliant orange, coral, snow, and black continue to inspire the holiday collection, as new palettes of purple, green, yellow, and even Day-Glo infuse resort groups, sometimes in modest detailing, as in the new Noel group, and other times in brilliant PVC or brightly dyed animal prints.

Traditional equestrian inspired leather groups form a color foundation for the season, in natural browns and black, while metallics make a strong appearance in more muted variations as well as brilliant mirrored and pebbled silver and gold.

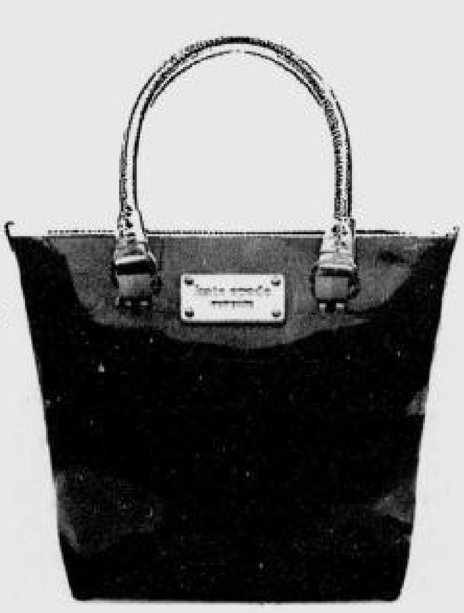
Kate Spade is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. and is in Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center, Power Plant Mall Rockwell Center, Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La Plaza Mall.



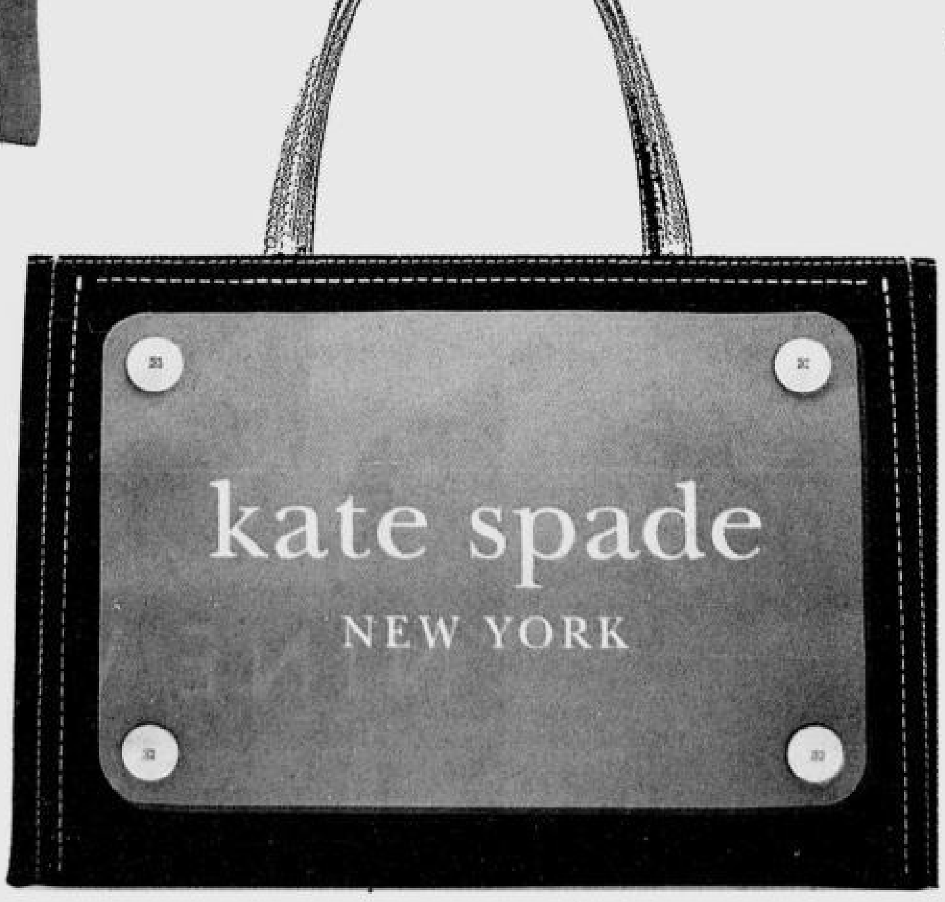
POP Clinton Street Stevie in red and silver



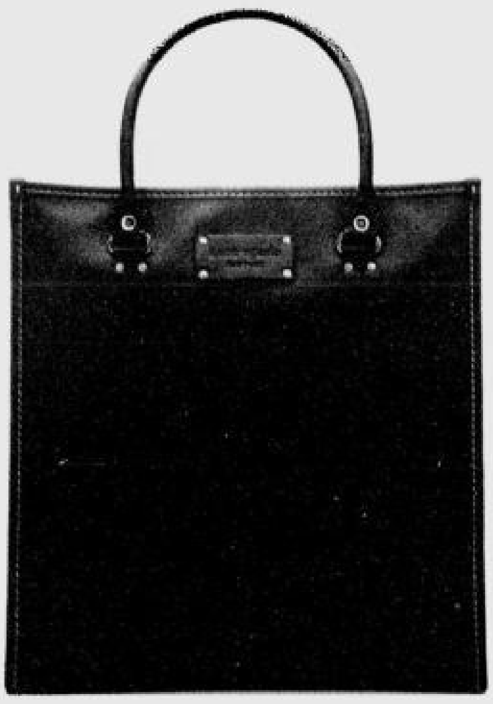
POP Clinton Street Stevie in silver



GANSEVOORT Noel Daisy Shopper in purple

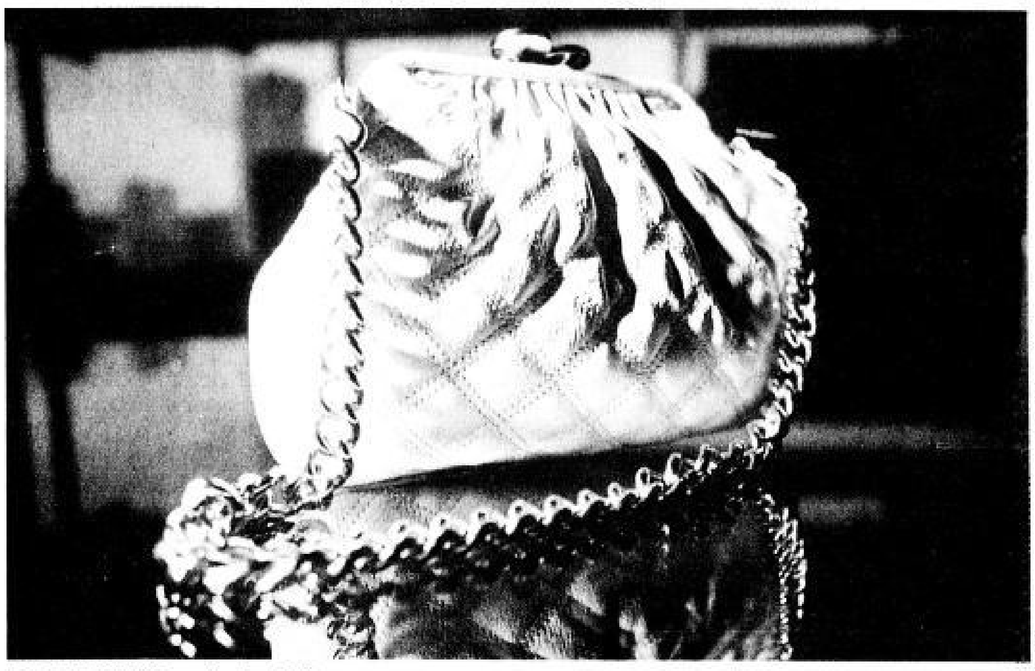


LICENSE Late Canvas medium shopper in black and green



TARRYTOWN Griffin in purple

QUILTED Classic Alyona in black and Soft Calf Blake in peanut



PATCHWORK Stam in Eggshell

Make way for Marc Jacobs

MARC JACOBS IS OUT to captivate Manila with his recently opened Marc Jacobs Collection Accessories store in Greenbelt 4.

Avid followers of this seasoned designer will find a lively collection of handbags, small leather goods and shoes in the store, one of just under 20 free-standing Collection stores worldwide.

Born in New York and a graduate of Parsons School of Design, Jacobs established his own brand in 1997 under LVMH along with his longtime business partner Robert Duffy. Since then, the Marc Jacobs brand has become an eponymous empire that includes not just Marc Jacobs, but also the Marc by Marc Jacobs label.

As artistic director of Louis Vuitton, Jacobs is responsible for many of the French luxury house's lines including handbags, men's and women's ready-to-wear, shoes and small leather goods.

With eight full-scale runway productions a year, Jacobs is a very busy man, flying in and out of New York and Paris. Such lifestyle is reflected in his own Marc Jacobs Collection line—a peculiar combination of elegance and youth, subtlety and non-conformity.

Marc Jacobs Collection accessories are modern and inspirational with a vintage luxury touch.

Each season offers a complete and cohesive collection grounded in strong, subtly recognizable signatures.

Marc Jacobs is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Stores Specialists Inc., and is in Greenbelt 4.

MARC Jacobs pump with navy-blue satin buds

QUILTED Classic Ryder in chestnut

PATCHWORK Stam in Eggshell bag

QUILTED Classic Little Stam in eggshell

QUILTED Classic Stam in cognac

Stars love these bags and shoes

A BRAND KNOWN FOR ITS elegance, versatile and low-key chic designs, Tod's has undoubtedly become one of the favorites of the Who's Who of Hollywood.

Just look at A-list actresses Jennifer Garner and Catherine Zeta Jones, who love lugging their Tod's clutch bags during red carpet affairs.

Dashing mom and actress Jennifer Garner's favorite is the Tod's Cappucine pochette in pale gold satin with crystal embellishments, which she had with her at the opening night of her Broadway show "Cyrano de Bergerac."

Also a fan of the Tod's Cappucine Pochette, the always glamorous and sophisticated Jones donned this clutch in silver satin color to match her purple and silver red carpet look at the Di Modolo event in New York City.

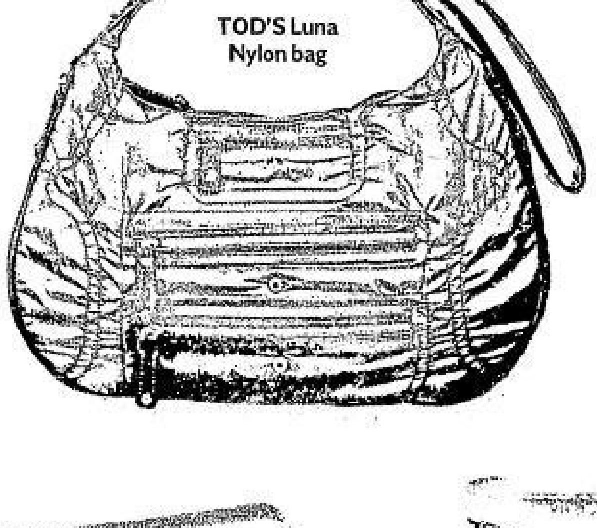
Adding to the growing list of Tod's Cappucine pochette metallic clutch aficionados is supermodel turned actor Molly Sims, who sported the famous bag to complete her metallic bronze ensemble at the Operation Smile event in Los Angeles.

Another huge fan of Tod's is actress and style icon Sarah Jessica Parker, who was spotted having a break from filming her latest movie in New York City with her trendy and handy Tod's Pashmy Luna Nylon bag in grey carrying all her essentials.

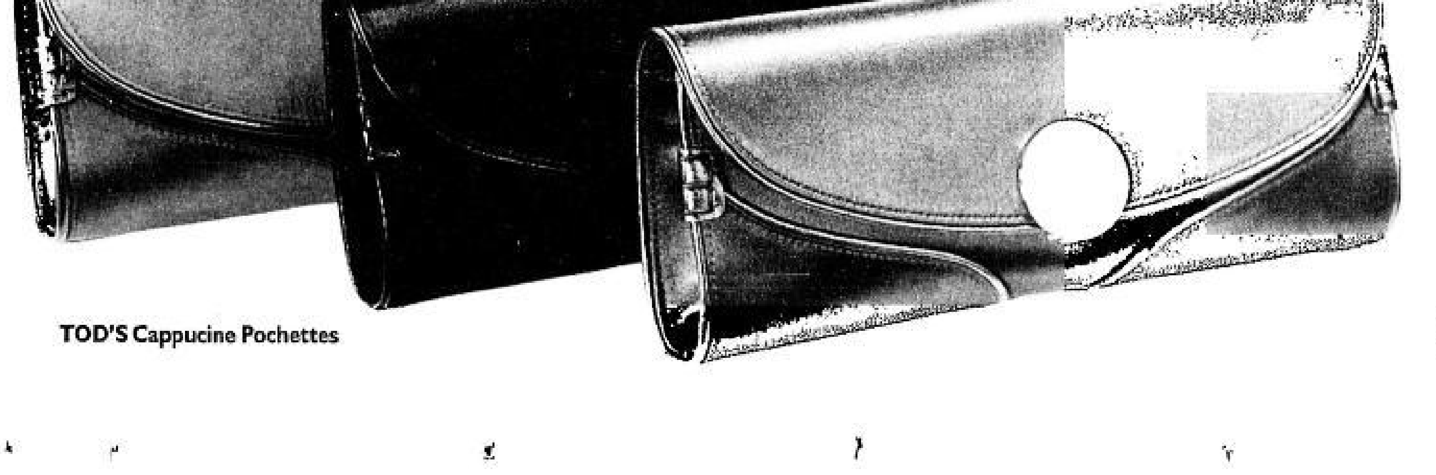
And who says Tod's is just all about bags? Uma Thurman was caught by paparazzi looking comfortable and chic wearing her Tod's Gommini in tan while riding her scooter in New York.

These classic Tod's shoes have always been a staple among ladies with their minimal and stylish designs and bright colors.

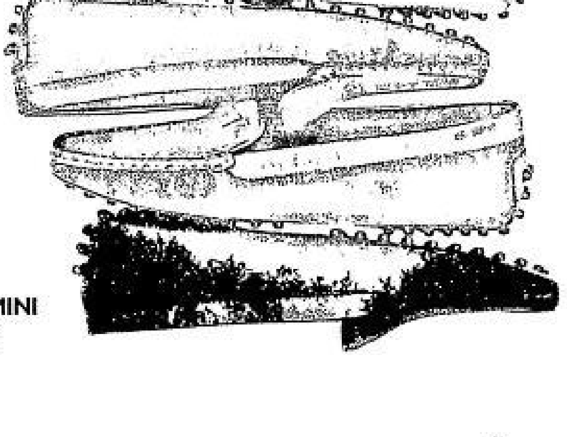
In the Philippines, Tod's shoes, bags and accessories are exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. and are available at the boutique located in Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati.



TOD'S Luna Nylon bag



TOD'S Cappucine Pochettes



GIMMINI shoes

Holiday shopping rewards

WHEN THE COUNTRY'S PREFERRED luxury retailer and the global leader in credit cards come together for an exclusive offering, expect the best kind of shopping fireworks.

From gifts with purchase to special discounts as generous as 50-percent off to VIP privileges, Citibank and Rustan's have covered every base that their customers are sure to encounter irresistible offers at every turn.

"The holiday season is a special time across the globe and we are always looking for ways to raise the bar in rewarding our customers. This partnership with Rustan's has given us the opportunity to do just that—our cardholders will be rewarded many times over simply by using their Citibank credit card," related Mark Jones, Country Business Manager for Citibank Philippines.

On top of the outright discounts on nearly all purchases in Rustan's Department Stores nationwide, cardholders can also enjoy free gift wrapping with no minimum purchase, priority service in the gift wrapping lane, and a host of other VIP privileges such as free embroidery, engraving and alterations.

What's more, Citibank cardholders have from Oct. 20 until Jan. 31, 2008 to accumulate their spending and receive holiday treats starting at P5,000.

"Rustan's has proudly built a strong reputation in the luxury retail segment, and we continue to find ways to delight our customers. This Christmas season, we are giving them many exciting reasons to shop at Rustan's as we introduce new premium brands as well as showcase the best merchandise. We are very pleased to partner with Citibank and bring the holiday shopping of their cardholders to a whole new level," maintained Bienvenido Tantoco, Jr., president of Rustan Commercial Corp.

Dubbed the next-generation privilege program, Citibank World Privileges boasts of partnerships with more than 1,000 merchants locally and 17,000 across Asia Pacific and the world. With Citibank World Privileges, Citibank credit cardholders are guaranteed the red carpet treatment every time they pay with their card—enjoying discounts and more.

RUSTAN'S Rico Tantoco (extreme left) and wife Nena (center) with Citibank's Cecille Fonacier, Mark Jones and Bea Tan

At Rustan's Department Stores, Citibank cardholders via Citibank World Privileges will be treated to discounts as generous as 50-percent off when shopping for home, fine jewelry, cosmetics and toiletries and fashion brands. Some of the offers you should not miss:

- 50-percent off on any For Joseph Tops when you buy any For Joseph Denim
- 30-percent discount on all regular XoXo items
- 30-percent off on all Mavi Jeans items
- 20-percent off on shoes and jewelry with any purchase of Baby Phat clothing
- 15-percent discount on Longchamp Pliage bags

On top of Rewards Points or air miles or gas rebates or cash rebates they will earn on spending with their Citibank credit card, plus the discounts and gifts with their Rustan's purchases, cardholders can also look forward to exclusive holiday treats.

Accumulated purchase starting at P5,000 will entitle them to a Rustan's Exclusives Home Bundle, a selection of gifts sure to add warmth to any home. A P10,000 spent will give them the choice of chic and functional LX2 bags by Dennis Lustico and Jojie Lloren, ideal to keep one's holiday stash.

Purchases worth P25,000 will entitle cardholders to an LX2 bag by Dennis Lustico and Jojie Lloren and a 100-ml ISM Inno Sotto Mondo perfume. A P50,000 spent will be rewarded with a 75-ml Thiery Mugler cologne, which re-energizes senses with notes of citrus, bergamot orange, and neroli, leaving behind a sensual skin scent that lasts all day.

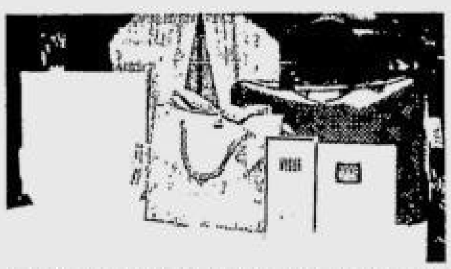
Finally, a P100,000 spent will be gifted with a Tiffany & Co. Crystal Collectible, the ultimate in timeless flair.

And if shopping does prove to be too irresistible but you need some room to make your payments, Citibank is offering zero-percent installment terms for purchases of P3,000 or higher. The zero-interest PayLite offer is available for three months and six months payment terms.

Own a Citibank Visa Platinum? You can enjoy all these plus the services of Rustan's personal shoppers and complimentary parking in Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Tower. Citibank Visa Platinum cardholders are also welcome to visit the Black FSP Lounge in Rustan's Makati, where they will be treated to a complimentary appetizer platter courtesy of East Creative Asian restaurant as they watch cable TV or movies on a sleek Plasma TV.

Experience shopping bliss like no other this holiday season with Citibank credit cards at Rustan's Department Stores. To know more, log on to www.citibank.com.ph or call 9959999. No Citibank card yet? Apply now and get free gift certificates at Rustan's with your new Citibank credit card.

A TOAST to the partnership: Citibank country business manager Mark Jones and Rustan Commercial Corp president Rico Tantoco



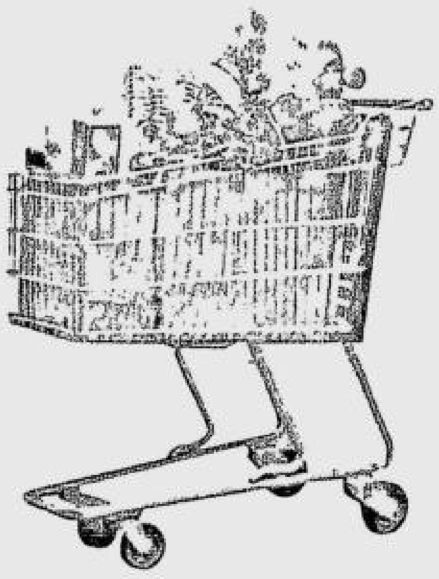
FOR an accumulated amount of purchases at Rustan's, Citibank cardholders can choose from a number of exciting freebies.

CITIBANK cardholders via Citibank World Privileges get up to 50-percent off on goodies.

Robinsons Supermarket

Go healthy and nutritious.

It's a brand new start to a better life at Robinsons Supermarket!



ALL ROBINSONS MALLS
Araneta Square, Caloocan City
Banilad Town Center, Cebu
Berkeley Square, Commonwealth
Circle C Center, Congressional

Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
Nagaland, EMall, Naga City
Nepo Mall, Dagupan
Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
Malabon Citisquare

Metropolis Star Alabang
Susano Complex, Novaliches
Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tutuban Center
Blue Wave, Marikina

Eat Well Spend Less

LIFESTYLE

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Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

BEAUTY

OLAY ambassador Gretchen Barretto

NEW and improved Olay Total Effects 7-in-1 Anti-Aging Cream

Breakthrough product made even better

OLAY TOTAL EFFECTS, THE revolutionary anti-aging moisturizer that helps fight the seven signs of skin aging, was launched in the Philippines last year.

The metro's A-listers recently gathered again at the Manila Peninsula to celebrate the launch of a new gold standard in anti-aging technology: the new and improved Olay Total Effects 7-in-1 Anti-Aging Cream.

Now offering the benefits of seven anti-aging treatments in just one bottle, Olay's unique and improved Vitaniacin formula contains the dual power of 75-percent more Niacinamide to help skin regain its youthful glow, plus a powerful combination of antioxidants that includes four times more vitamin C derivatives, vitamin e and green-tea extracts to defend skin against damaging free radicals.

The new product delivers the anti-aging benefits of line minimization, pore refinement, subtle lifting, gentle exfoliation, nourishing moisturization, antioxidant infusion and tone enhancement.

"After I do my treatments, I feel fresh, I feel relaxed and I feel beautiful. So I feel excited that this new Olay Total Effects promises the benefits of anti-aging treatments," says former beauty queen and Olay brand ambassador, Miriam Quiambao.

Olay challenged its brand ambassadors and their sisters and best friends to try the new Total Effects 7-in-1 anti-aging Cream and see how it compares with their favorite anti-aging treatments.

"Having tried Olay Total Effects—the first formulation—I thought, what could top Olay? And then they told me to try this new formulation that has purportedly more vitamins in it, more Vitaniacin and more vitamin C," said Quiambao. "So I tried it and I thought this is better because my skin is now even pinker and more nourished."

TV host Daphne Oseña-Paez also loves the idea of getting the benefits of anti-aging treatments without the downtime needed to recover from professional treatments.

"For me, the new Olay Total Effects has a gentle, mild way of showing new skin. It worked faster and it had a more intense formulation. I could feel that my skin was tighter, I had less pores and my lines started to disappear," she said.

Prominent beauty expert Dr. Pie Calayan said that the new Olay Total Effects made for a perfect complement to her patients' beauty regimen.

"I'm always into teaching patients how to properly maintain their skin, and women nowadays also want something that they

BREAKTHROUGH/ H3

PATRICK Paez and wife, Olay brand ambassador Daphne Oseña-Paez

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delete
menu
review
share
Kodak EasyShare M883

8.0 Megapixels 3X Optical Zoom 3.0" Wide-angle LCD

SD Card 1 GB, camera case

Kodak EasyShare M883 digital camera

Superb technology and design

A sleek and chic camera with unique and stylish functions at an affordable price

Php 16,995 for only Php 1,416/mo.**

High ISO up to 1600 • Digital image stabilization • HD still capture lets you view your pictures in high-definition on an HDTV or other HD devices • Li-Ion rechargeable battery included • Kodak Perfect Touch Technology • Video with sound, editing and prints from video (1,4,9 and 16-up) • 22 scene modes including panorama stitch and 5 color modes • Internal memory 64 MB

Kodak EasyShare M853 digital camera
- 8.2 Megapixels
- 3X Optical Zoom
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- HI ISO up to 1250

Php 14,995
for only Php 1,250/mo.**
Free SD Card 1 GB, camera case
Available in red

Kodak EasyShare M753 digital camera
- 7.0 Megapixels
- 3X Optical Zoom
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- HI ISO up to 1250

Php 12,995
for only Php 1,083/mo.**
Free SD Card 1 GB, camera case
Available in pink

Kodak EasyShare C813 digital camera
- 8.2 Megapixels
- 3X Optical Zoom
- 2.4" LCD Screen
- HI ISO up to 1250

Php 9,995
for only Php 833/mo.**
Free SD Card 1 GB, camera case

Kodak EasyShare C713 digital camera
- 7.0 Megapixels
- 3X Optical Zoom
- 2.4" LCD Screen
- HI ISO up to 1250

Php 8,995
for only Php 750/mo.**
Free SD Card 1 GB, camera case

Kodak EasyShare C613 digital camera
- 6.2 Megapixels
- 3X Optical Zoom
- 2.4" LCD Screen
- HI ISO

Php 7,995
for only Php 1,333/mo.*
Free SD Card 512 MB, camera case

0% for *6 month or **12 month payment scheme

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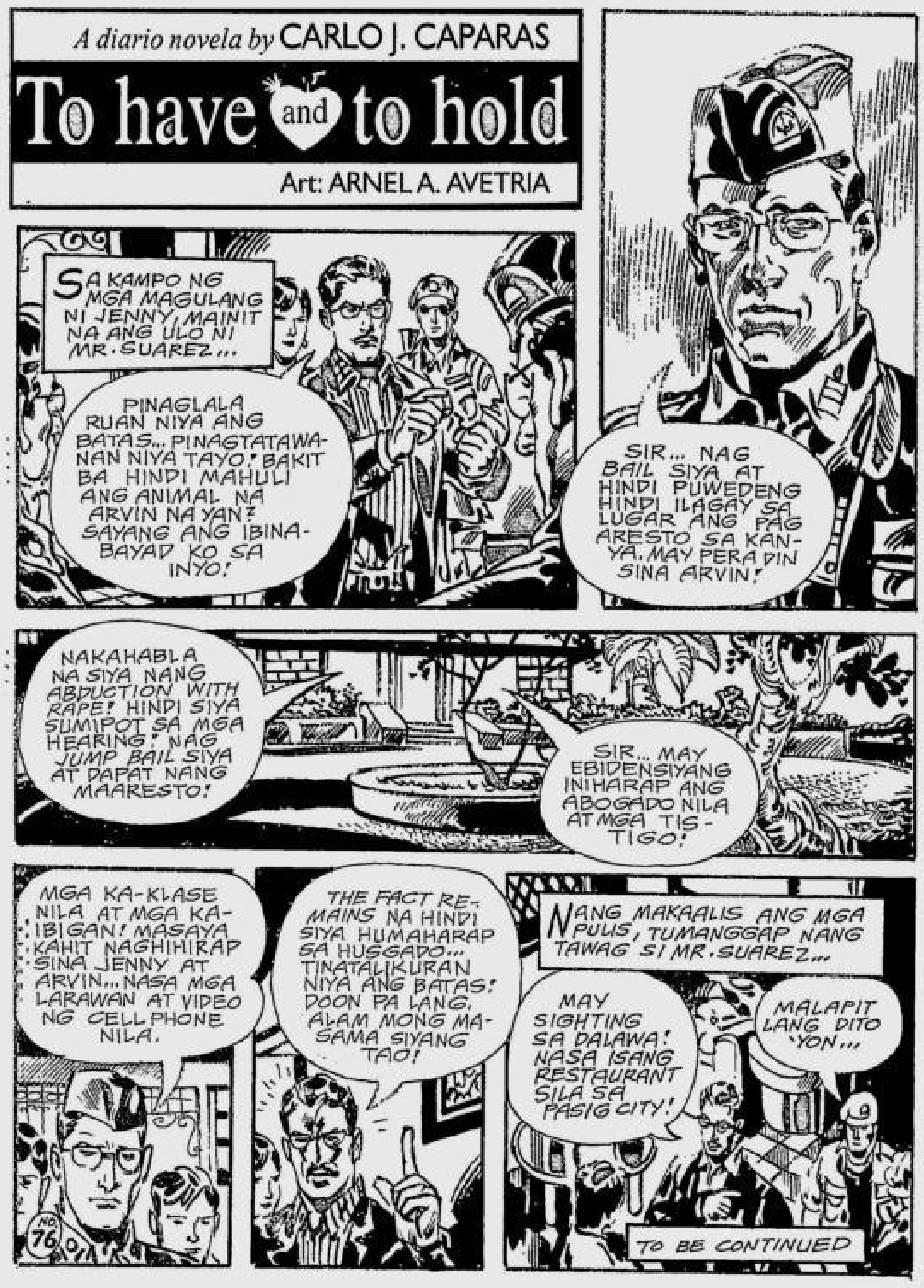
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

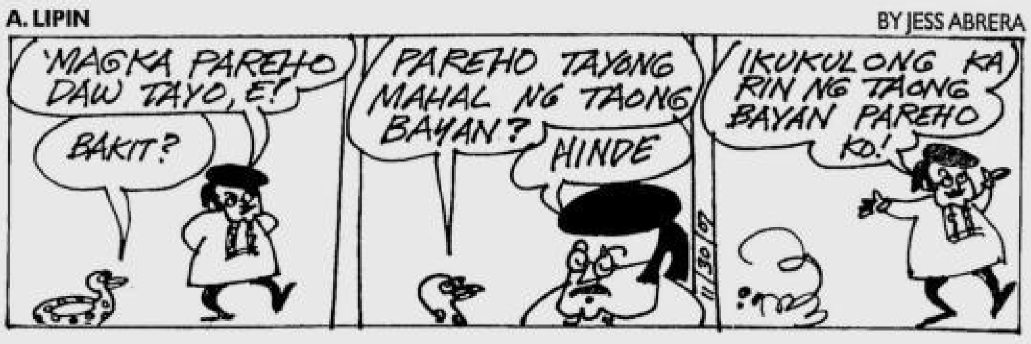
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


SA KAMPO NG MGA MAGULANG NI JENNY, MAINIT NA ANG ULO NI MR. SUAREZ...
PINAGLALARUAN NIYA ANG BATAS... PINAGTATAWANAN NIYA TAYO! BAKIT BA HINDI MAHULI ANG ANIMAL NA ARVIN NA YAN? SAYANG ANG IBINABAYAD KO SA INYO!
SIR... NAG BAIL SIYA AT HINDI PUWEDENG HINDI ILAGAY SA LUGAR ANG PAG ARESTO SA KANYA. MAY PERA DIN SINA ARVIN!
NAKAHABLA NA SIYA NANG ABDUCTION WITH RAPE! HINDI SIYA SUMIPOT SA MGA HEARING! NAG JUMP BAIL SIYA AT DAPAT NANG MAARESTO!
SIR... MAY EBIDENSIYANG INIHARAP ANG ABOGADO NILA AT MGA TISTIGO!
MGA KA-KLASE NILA AT MGA KAIBIGAN! MASAYA KAHIT NAGHIHIRAP SINA JENNY AT ARVIN... NASA MGA LARAWAN AT VIDEO NG CELLPHONE NILA.
THE FACT REMAINS NA HINDI SIYA HUMAHARAP SA HUSGADO... TINATALIKURAN NIYA ANG BATAS! DOON PA LANG, ALAM MONG MASAMA SIYANG TAO!
NANG MAKAALIS ANG MGA PULIS, TUMANGGAP NANG TAWAG SI MR. SUAREZ...
MAY SIGHTING SA DALAWA! NASA ISANG RESTAURANT SILA SA PASIG CITY!
MALAPIT LANG DITO 'YON...
NO. 76
TO BE CONTINUED

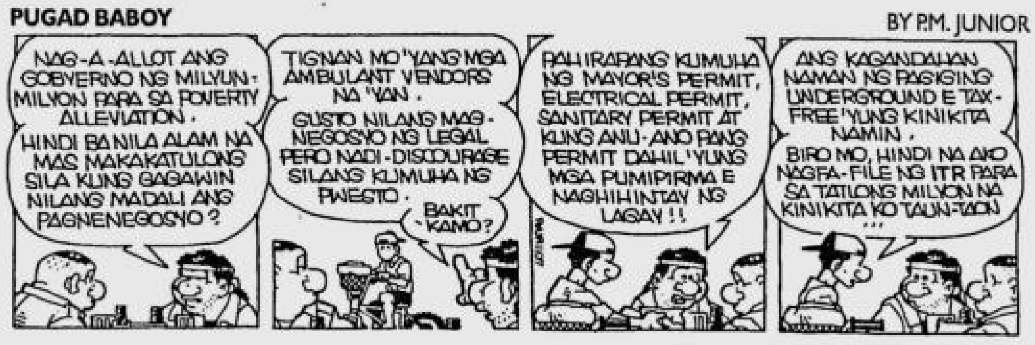
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'MAGKA PAREHO DAW TAYO, E!
BAKIT?
PAREHO TAYONG MAHAL NG TAONG BAYAN?
HINDE
11/30/07
IKUKULONG KA RIN NG TAONG BAYAN PAREHO KO!

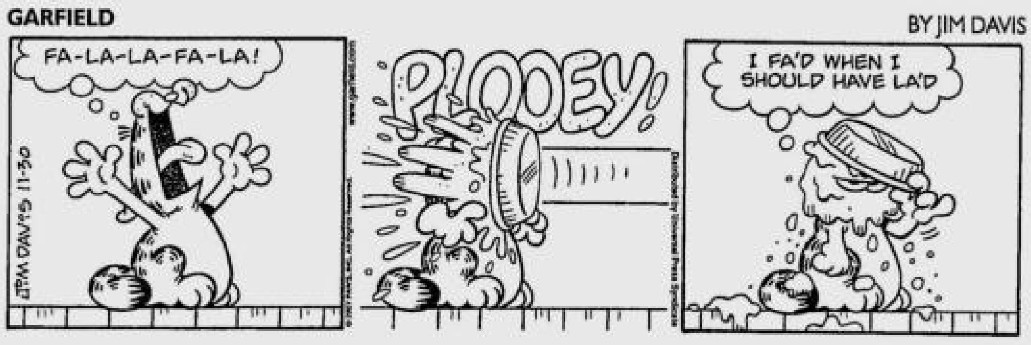
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAG-A-ALLOT ANG GOBYERNO NG MILYUN-MILYON PARA SA POVERTY ALLEVIATION.
HINDI BA NILA ALAM NA MAS MAKAKATULONG SILA KUNG GAGAWIN NILANG MADALI ANG PAGNENEGOSYO?
TIGNAN MO 'YANG MGA AMBULANT VENDORS NA 'YAN.
GUSTO NILANG MAGNEGOSYO NG LEGAL PERO NADI-DISCOURAGE SILANG KUMUHA NG PWESTO.
BAKIT KAMO?
PAHIRAPANG KUMUHA NG MAYOR'S PERMIT, ELECTRICAL PERMIT, SANITARY PERMIT AT KUNG ANU-ANO PANG PERMIT DAHIL 'YUNG MGA PUMIPIRMA E NAGHIHINTAY NG LAGAY!!
ANG KAGANDAHAN NAMAN NG PAGIGING UNDERGROUND E TAX-FREE 'YUNG KINIKITA NAMIN.
BIRO MO, HINDI NA AKO NAGFA-FILE NG ITR PARA SA TATLONG MILYON NA KINIKITA KO TAUN-TAON...

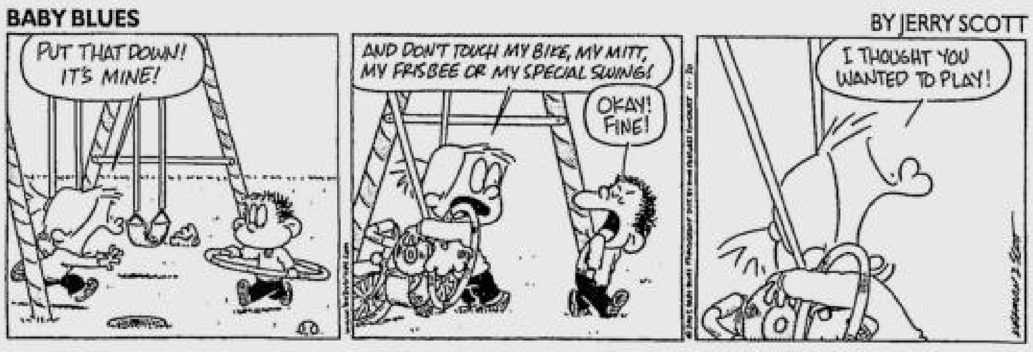
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


FA-LA-LA-FA-LA!
JIM DAVIS 11-30
PLOOEY!
I FA'D WHEN I SHOULD HAVE LA'D

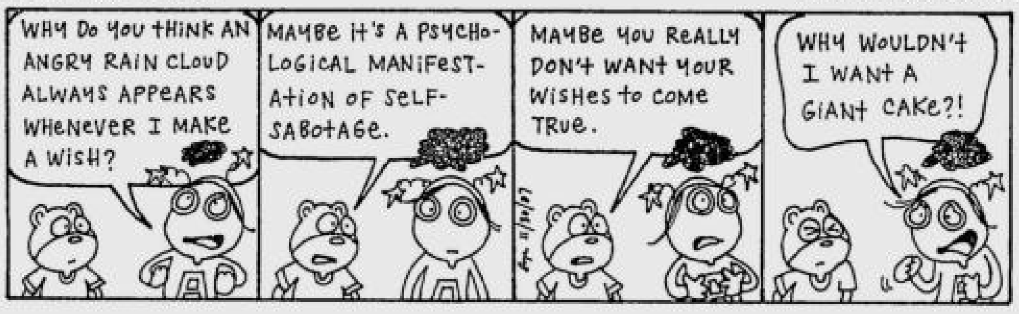
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


PUT THAT DOWN! IT'S MINE!
AND DON'T TOUCH MY BIKE, MY MITT, MY FRISBEE OR MY SPECIAL SWING!
OKAY! FINE!
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO PLAY!

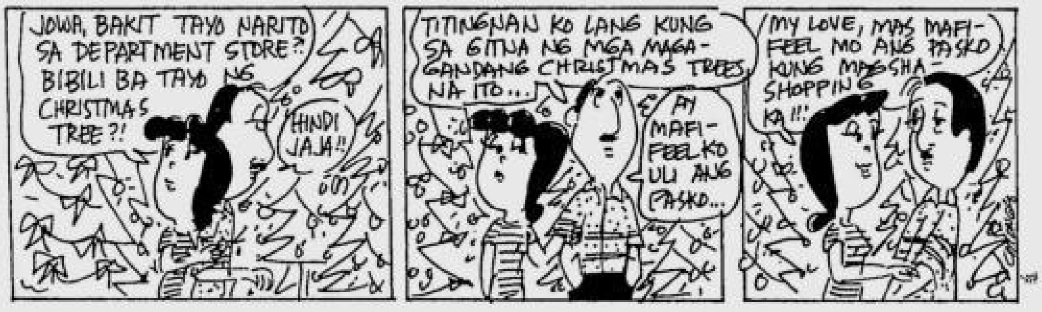
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHY DO YOU THINK AN ANGRY RAIN CLOUD ALWAYS APPEARS WHENEVER I MAKE A WISH?
MAYBE IT'S A PSYCHOLOGICAL MANIFESTATION OF SELF-SABOTAGE.
MAYBE YOU REALLY DON'T WANT YOUR WISHES TO COME TRUE.
WHY WOULDN'T I WANT A GIANT CAKE?!

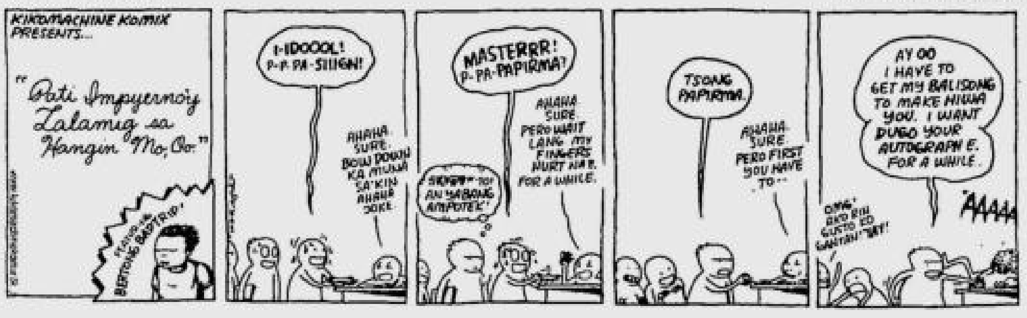
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, BAKIT TAYO NARITO SA DEPARTMENT STORE? BIBILI BA TAYO NG CHRISTMAS TREE?!
HINDI JAJA!!
TITINGNAN KO LANG KUNG SA GITNA NG MGA MAGAGANDANG CHRISTMAS TREES NA ITO...
AY MAFI-FEEL KO ULI ANG PASKO...
MY LOVE, MAS MAFI-FEEL MO ANG PASKO KUNG MAGSHA-SHOPPING KA!!

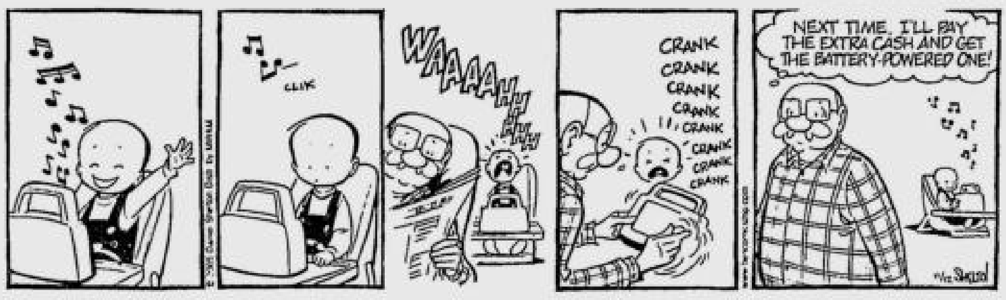
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINE KOMIX PRESENTS...
"Pati Impyerno'y Lalamig sa Hangin Mo, Oo."
I-IDOOOL! P-P-PA-SIIIGN!
AHAHA. SURE. BOW DOWN KA MUNA SA'KIN. AHAHA JOKE.
MASTERRR! P-PA-PAPIRMA?
AN YABANG AMPOTEK!
AHAHA SURE. PERO WAIT LANG. MY FINGERS HURT NA E. FOR A WHILE.
TSONG PAPIRMA.
AHAHA SURE. PERO FIRST YOU HAVE TO...
AY OO I HAVE TO GET MY BALISONG TO MAKE HIWA YOU. I WANT DUGO YOUR AUTOGRAPH E. FOR A WHILE.
OMG! AKO RIN GUSTO KO GANYAN 'BF'!
AAAAA

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


CLIK
WAAAAAH
CRANK
CRANK
CRANK
CRANK
CRANK
CRANK
CRANK
CRANK
NEXT TIME, I'LL PAY THE EXTRA CASH AND GET THE BATTERY-POWERED ONE!

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14					■	15				■	16			
17					■	18				■	19			
20			■	21	22					23				
■	■	24	25						■	26				
27	28						■	29	30			■	■	■
31				■	32		33	■	34			35	36	37
38			■	39				40			■	41		
42			43			■	44			■	45			
■	■	■	46			47	■	48		49				
50	51	52			■	53	54						■	■
55					56						■	57	58	59
60				■	61				■	62	63			
64				■	65				■	66				
67				■	68				■	69				

By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

11/30/07

ACROSS
1 Obfuscate
6 Design
10 Japanese peak
14 Like loud surf
15 Fabled loser
16 Israeli carrier
17 Popeye's foe
18 Artist's medium
19 Vegas rival
20 Beatles song, "__ Blues"
21 Former Vikings coach
24 Evening receptions
26 Haile Selassie worshiper
27 Palm fruit
29 Duel reminder
31 "Typee" sequel
32 Little bit
34 Atlantic islands
38 Besmirch
39 Top of the pops, e.g.
41 Author Levin
42 Sliced earlier
44 Diamond decider
45 Roman poet
46 Domain
48 Trailblazer
50 Rae Dawn __
53 Store gadget
55 Underwater weaponry
57 Emulate Ali
60 Charge per unit
61 Touched down
62 "Wicked Game" vocalist
64 Wrapped up
65 M. Lacoste
66 Al __ (pasta preference)
67 Pills, briefly
68 Soaked in anil
69 Egyptian crosses

DOWN
1 Mollycoddle
2 Perry's creator
3 Gettysburg Address opening word
4 Horse morsel
5 "Midnight Run" co-star
6 Unproductive communication
7 Singer Cleo
8 George of "Disraeli"
9 Costner role
10 Mondale's slate-mate
11 "__ Gold" (Fonda film)
12 Swimmer Evans
13 Ms. Massey
22 Well-read
23 Slight abrasion
25 Tic-tac-toe win
27 Freebie
28 Poet Khayyam
30 Using a bivouac
33 A/C measure
35 Wharf location
36 One of HOMES
37 Abolhassan Bani-__
39 Scottish town
40 Passed on
43 Intermediate equine paces
45 Any person
47 Actress Elizabeth
49 Iroquois tribe
50 Portable memory
51 Toss
52 Chose
54 "The __ Mutiny"
56 Word that follows 21A, 39A, 55A, 3D and 35D
58 Courtroom declaration
59 Classic Jags
63 Legislator in DC

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	R	O	B	■	S	T	I	R	■	E	A	S	T
O	M	A	N	I	■	T	O	G	A	■	X	R	A	Y
D	O	N	O	T	P	U	T	O	F	F	T	I	L	L
A	S	K	■	P	A	C	E	R	■	L	E	A	V	E
■	■	■	L	A	I	C	■	■	S	E	N	S	O	R
T	O	M	O	R	R	O	W	W	H	A	T	■	■	■
E	X	A	L	T	■	■	I	O	U	S	■	O	C	T
S	E	L	L	■	T	A	L	O	N	■	L	U	L	U
T	N	T	■	C	A	R	L	■	■	G	A	Z	E	R
■	■	■	Y	O	U	C	A	N	P	U	T	O	F	F
L	A	R	I	A	T	■	■	E	R	I	S	■	■	■
A	L	O	E	S	■	C	O	V	E	T	■	S	P	A
T	I	L	L	T	H	E	D	A	Y	A	F	T	E	R
E	K	E	D	■	S	L	I	D	■	R	O	O	S	T
N	E	S	S	■	E	T	N	A	■	S	E	P	O	Y

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11/30/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're witty, wise, observant and courageous. You instinctively know when to act and when to wait. You have excellent timing. You work hard and rarely waste your energy. Your humor is subtle, and people love it. You dress well. (But you do react to criticism!) Your year ahead is full of fun, social occasions. In particular, it promotes warm relationships.

Birthdate of: Ben Stiller, actor; Ridley Scott, director; Mandy Patinkin, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your plans with publishing, travel, medicine or the law could be foiled today. If you're trying to move something somewhere, or go somewhere, you might be blocked.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a bad day for discussions about shared property. It's also a poor day to ask for a loan or do a mortgage deal. Too many obstacles will arise.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Discussions with partners and close friends are at loggerheads today. Wait till another day to discuss anything important. In fact, just be patient with others today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Take it easy at work today. Others are not cooperative, especially bosses and authority figures. In fact, people are easily critical. (Run away!)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Parties, sporting events and social plans might be dampened somewhat today. The responsibilities of children could be a burden. Go slowly, and don't expect too much.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Parents and family responsibilities have to be reckoned with today. There's no getting around this. Just do what is expected of you. (You have no choice.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's easy to fall into a state of worry today. Furthermore, you might feel discouraged. Others are critical or just being a wet blanket about your ideas. (Let it go.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is not an ideal day for financial transactions, business or commerce. Someone or something will block whatever you're trying to do. Be patient.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's easy to incur the wrath or the criticisms of bosses, parents, teachers and authority figures today. Don't let this get to you. Everybody is experiencing this in one way or another.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't be hard on yourself if you're second-guessing yourself or full of self-doubt today. These feelings come and go. A lot of people feel like this today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a poor day to lend people money. Don't expect too much from others, especially their support or assistance. Quite likely, something will fall through. And so it goes.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a poor day to ask bosses, parents and authority figures for any kind of favor or for permission for anything. The answer will be, "Talk to the hand." Wait for another day.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

9				5				
6			1		7			
8			6		2			
		2				4		
	9			8			2	
		5				6		
			3		9			5
			5		4			3
				2				1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

11/30

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	1	5	3	6	2	4	8	7
4	7	2	9	1	8	6	3	5
3	8	6	7	4	5	2	9	1
5	4	7	8	3	9	1	2	6
2	9	1	4	5	6	8	7	3
8	6	3	2	7	1	9	5	4
7	5	8	6	9	4	3	1	2
6	3	9	1	2	7	5	4	8
1	2	4	5	8	3	7	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/29

Dealing with the hormonal tug of war

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

SOME PEOPLE TURN UP their noses at water weight loss, saying it should not count because it is "only water," not actual fat. But any woman who is prone to bloating and has experienced PMS know that excess water weight can go as high as 10 pounds or more, which means at least two dress/pants sizes higher than you need.

Not evenly distributed, the weight settles on the legs, stomach and face, making you look obese without eating much. Now is that fair?

Armed with a list of my PMS symptoms, I go to Philosophy by Mikaela salon and spa to detoxify from head to toe, inside out.

Greasy scalp—I have found my skincare solution for checking acne, but my oily scalp remains a problem.

Naturally oily to begin with, my scalp can't be treated by my usual oily-hair shampoos, which can't hold the fort especially during PMS week; so I experience increased hair loss, dandruff, scalp odor and gross greasy hair.

But now taking care of that is Renovateur Scalp Detox (P1,350 plus P550 for power-dose vial). It is a scalp-cleansing treatment that peels the sebum (oil deposits) off the scalp to correct improper hair growth that results in hair loss and dandruff. You are shown a 100x or so close-up of your scalp and you can see the oil crust even after a shampoo.

After Renovateur you are once again shown the view of your now clear scalp. Mine after the treatment was free of odor and had controlled grease production for about four days, with daily shampoo, of course.

So I have this done twice a month. Those with normal to dry scalps can have this done once a month. Look for Rainier or Ronan.

Foot Spa BioDetox (P800)—Have you seen those TV infomercials which show feet soaked in the water changing color?

Whenever I get my gout attacks, the water gets very orange and after an extensive high-fat diet for a month, the water gets dark green.

Just to make sure the water isn't a certain color for everyone who goes in the same day, I took my brother with me. Mine was brownish orange with white scum, which indicated bad joints, bloating and insomnia, all accurate.

I don't smoke or drink, but alcohol and tobacco were included in the factors of possibility. My brother used the same machine after me and it was his first time to try it.

His water was swamp-colored, moss-black, with orange bubbles, which meant liver, alcohol, fat impurities, lack of exercise and pursiness (bloating with shortness of breath).

MY BROTHER gets Renovateur scalp Detox and a face slimming haircut from Jomar Flores

Except for the alcohol part, everything seemed accurate. Look for Merta or Me-Ann.

Water-retention relief

Rizza, my regular masseuse, suggested the Lymphatic-drainage Massage (P880) which stimulates and aids the body in releasing toxins.

Armed with her Detox massage oil, tiny but strong Rizza kneaded my body away for an hour. The spots which retained water became sore. After that, I was always going to the bathroom the whole day and that evening, weighed two pounds less.

By next morning I had lost three more pounds after using the bathroom so I was five pounds lighter than the previous morning.

Call Philosophy by Mikaela at 8921574.

'Hilot'

For stubborn aches and pains, especially recurring body pains that massages can only relieve for a week at most, you should really consider Pinoy Hilot (P880 per hour).

With me it's shoulders, calves, and lower-back pain. Planning to have kids soon, I have to stay away from painkillers, and so I went the natural route with Manang Jesusa, a real *hilot* from Negros.

One look at me and she knew what part was bothering me. My shoulders and bra line, she said, were not fat as I thought but had *lamig* inside, making me swell and look fatter than I was. She made the same observation about my upper hips.

The moment she aimed for these points I clenched my fists in pain. The aircon was switched off so as to not add to the pain as the cold air could make it harder to breathe and it could make the problematic parts of the body swell.

The moment the pain departed, I had this feeling of lightness, relief and easy mobility. My shoulders and lower back have been pain-free since.

Note: Genuine *hilots* burp while treating you as they absorb and release your gases.

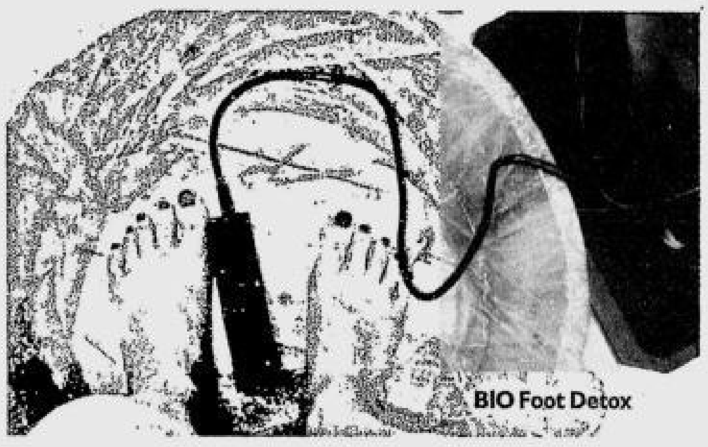
Promo watch

Till Dec. 5, all Godiva Skin Station have exciting promos:

- Diamond Peel with Vitamin C facial for only P900 (down from P1,900).
- Glutathione IV injection at P5,000 for three-session package. (Whitening fanatics will go nuts since a session usually costs P5,000. It takes three sessions to see noticeably whiter skin.)

Call 7516140.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



BIO Foot Detox

COUNTRY PR manager Jamie Endaya, Olay brand manager Michelle Villaroel, Dr. Pie Calayan, Oseña, Miriam Quiamnao and P&G brand PR manager Anna Legarda

Breakthrough product made even better

LAWYER Gaby Conception and Suzi Entrata-Abrera

JOYCE Jimenez and Mich Dulce

From page H1

can apply at home, a regimen that can deliver effects that are as good as my laser treatments. It makes it easier for me to see my patients coming back to me with lesser laugh lines. I'm very happy because, now, my patients can take care of their skin in between visits to my clinics with the new Olay Total Effects."

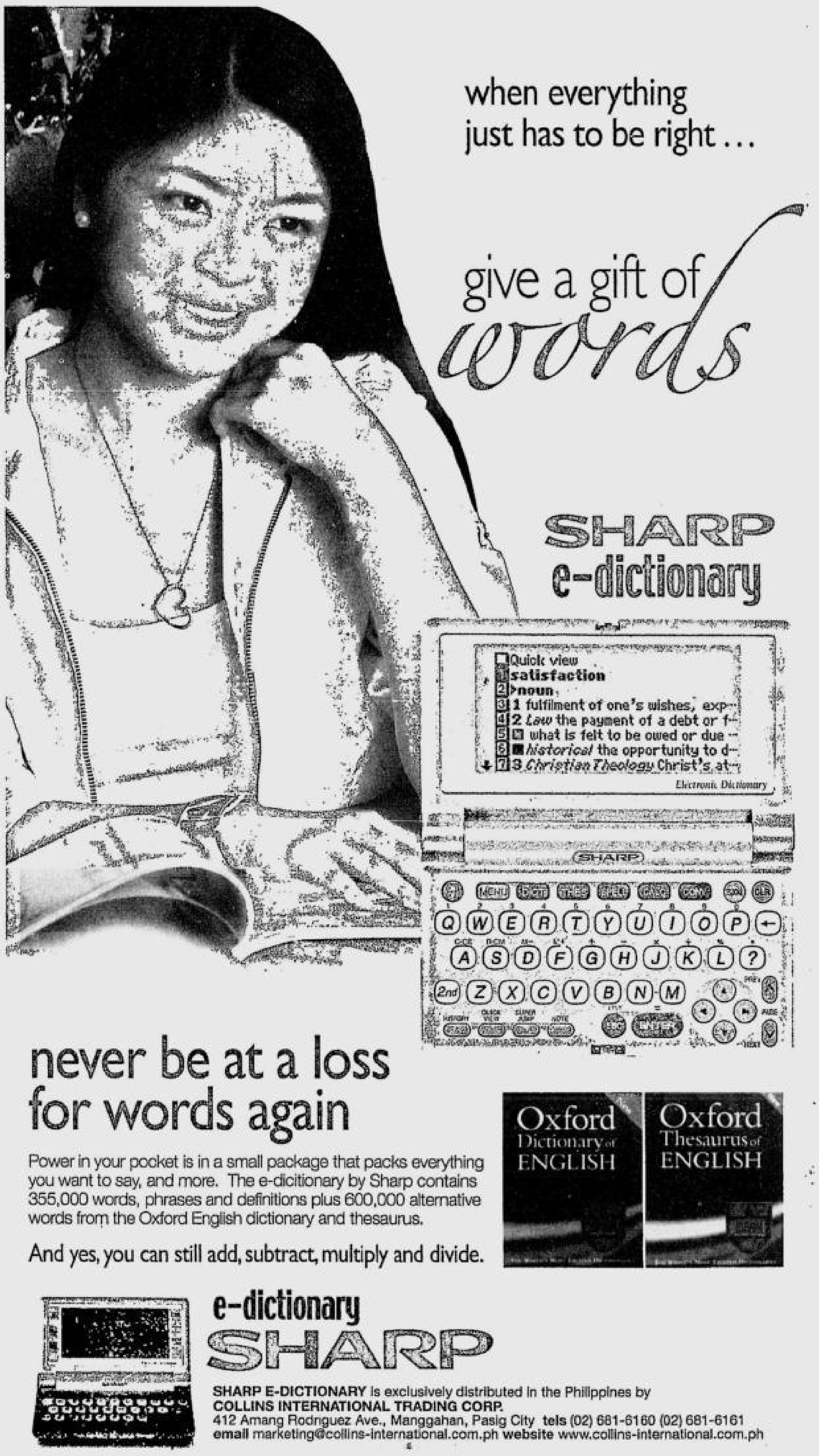
For her part, Olay ambassador and style icon Gretchen Barretto said, "While professional skincare remains in the hands of dermatologists and their anti-aging treatments, the benefit of seven of these anti-aging treatments are now available to women everywhere. I know this for a fact because I use it every day. So it's time you challenged yourself. Stop waiting for a miracle and switch to something that really works, that promises you the benefits of seven anti-aging treatments every day."

Guests were also challenged to discover the power of the new Olay Total Effects even before the evening's celebration with personalized Olay samples given away, accompanied by a free appointment for a premium anti-aging treatment at Suriya Spa.

After the festivities, guests went home toting their own Olay home anti-aging treatment and spa kit.

ADRIANO Catuliares, Divine Lee and Tessa Prieto-Valdes

ISABELLE Diaz Daza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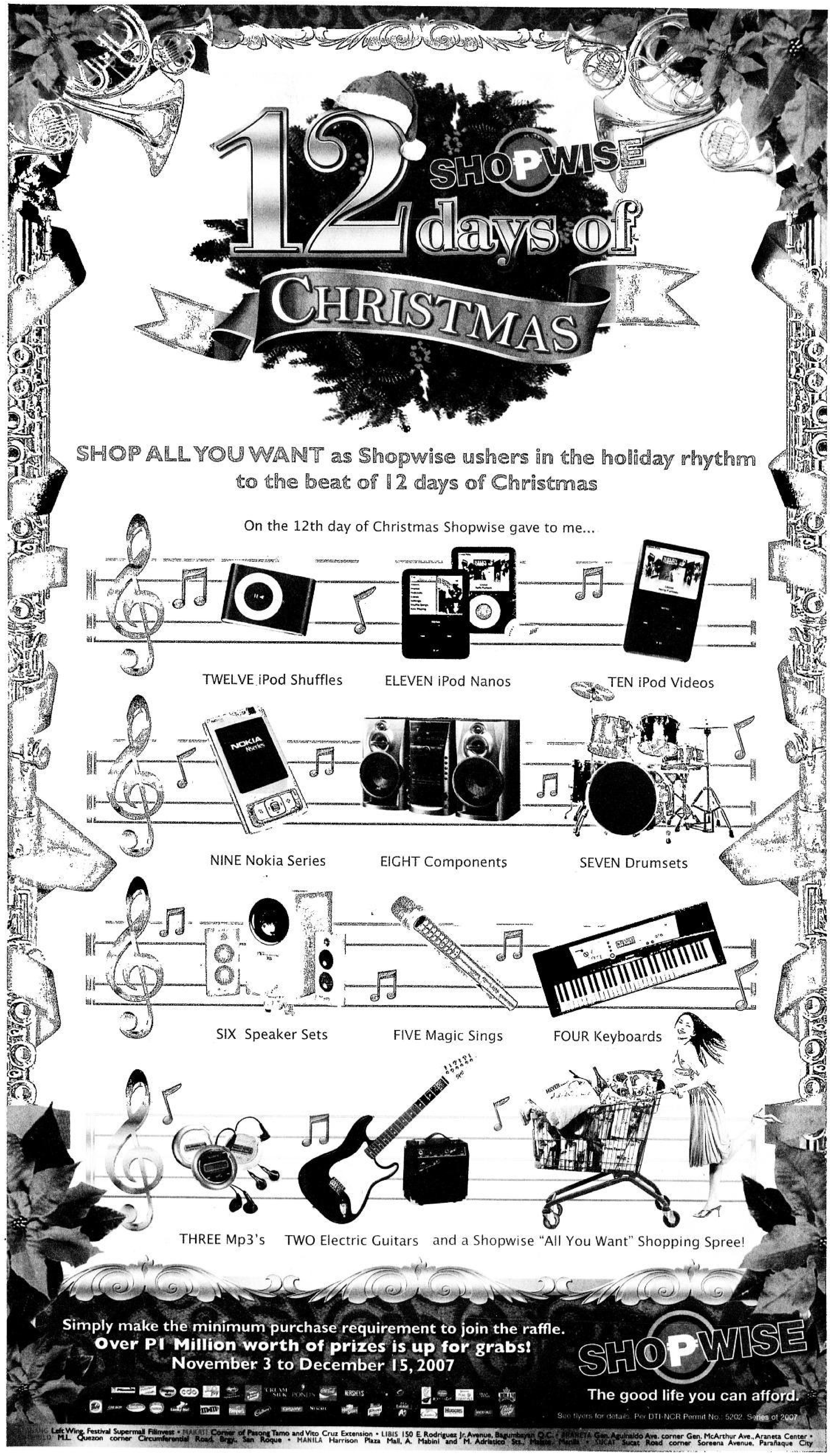

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BEAUTY

Philippe's reminds me of an organized, warm, ultra-modern home—or at least a high-tech kitchen

MAKEUP area

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

Salon innovation

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

I LOVE SALONS. GOING TO one is the ultimate upper for me. Studies show that even when the economy is bad, salons still do great. That's because salons are the place to go to for bad hair days, or when you want to feel some sense of relaxation, comfort and pampering.

I've found that the best salons are run like a home. Well, they should feel like one's second home, really. When I step into a salon, a warm welcome says I'm exactly where I am supposed to be, just like the feeling I get when I go home.

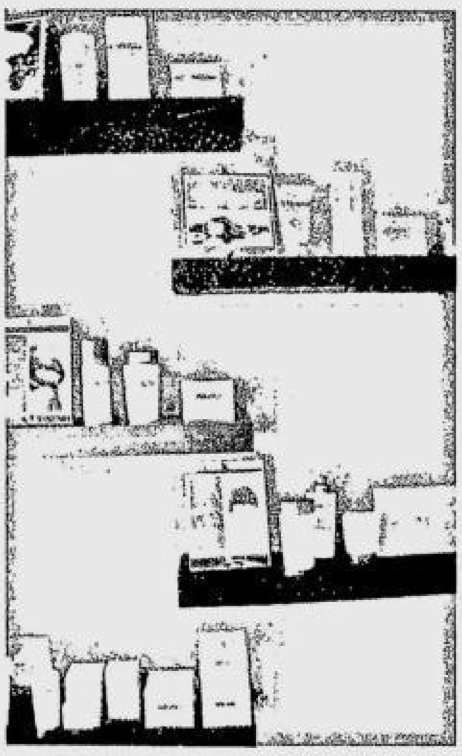
An appointment is essential if you want good services from a salon. If you just walk in, the salon might be full and you might have to wait or, worse, not be accommodated at all.

The receiving area is the salon's living room. At the very least, it should have the latest magazines for the clients' entertainment. Philippe's Salon in Pasong Tamo Extension even has a putting green for husbands or boyfriends who have to wait for their loved ones. Not to mention a flat-screen TV!

I was so happy and excited to see these amenities, because now it will be easier for me to drag my hubby with me when I go to the salon. Now I don't have to drop him off somewhere while I get primped up. In fact, when I mentioned about the putting green, he said he wanted to go with me the next time I got a hair treatment. A miracle!

Philippe's reminds me of an organized, warm, ultra-modern home—or at least a

SALON/12



HAIR products used at Philippe's Salon

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Did you know?

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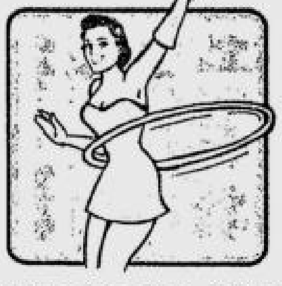

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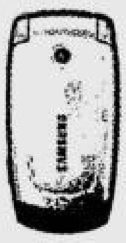

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PRIVATE room

SHAMPOO area

Salon innovation

PHILIPPE Tordjman of Philippe's Salon

From page II

high-tech kitchen. The service area is spacious and clean, and the furniture seem customized to provide maximum comfort to clients. It also has a floating coloring bar so you can see the products the salon uses on your hair, and how clean and well-kept they are. There are even sanitation ovens for all the steel tools.

The shampoo area is only used for that—shampooing. You may think, well what else do other salons use it for? A lot! Like washing their coloring bowls or their hands, etc. At Philippe's, attendants are provided a separate area for that.

My favorite amenity is the private room where you can bring your girl friends with you while you get your hair treated or you enjoy a massage. Bring your iPod with you; there's a dock ready for use.

Lastly, you can get your haircut done by French-born Philippe Tordjman, who is so good at what he does. He is so good that he probably began cutting hair way before he could spell his name!

AWARDING NIGHT AT SHANGHAI: (From left) Marlon Tantiado of Fix Ben Salon; R2 Tolentino of Huelgas Hairdressing; Cora del Rosario, president and general manager of Top Style Marketing, Inc; Jay Ramos, Asia Hairdressing Award winner, Newcomer of the Year category; Maripaz Canto, owner of Indigo Salon; Ody Coronel of Indigo Salon; and Lynne Ona, brand manager, Top Style Marketing, Inc.

Filipino hairdresser wins in Asia-wide tilt

IMAGINATION AND CREATIVITY ran wild at the recently concluded Asia Hairdressing Awards 2007, where some of the brightest, most talented hairdressers from seven Asian countries came together to celebrate and recognize excellence in hairdressing.

Considered the "Asian Oscars" of hairdressing, the AHA, held this year in Shanghai, China, saw teams from China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand compete for the top honors in five categories, namely, Avant-Garde, Commercial and Men's Style, Team of the Year, and Newcomer of the Year.

Young Filipino hairdresser Jay Ramos of Indigo Salon was declared Newcomer of the Year, beating Qiao Ning of China, Ivan Tong of Hong Kong, Steve Ooi Lee Siang of Malaysia, Manisa Tan of Singapore, Fabe Chan of Taiwan and Piyanee Chalachol of Thailand.

AHA was Ramos' first major international competition. "My style was inspired by different moods and textures. This award gives me inspiration to become more creative," he said. Ramos considers world-renowned beauty expert Anthony Moscolo his biggest influence.

Margaret Tan Lay Ean of Hair Impression in Malaysia was adjudged Asia Hairdresser of the Year 2007 and winner of the Commercial Style Category. Kirk Ho of LE Salon in Hong Kong was the winner in the Men's Style category, while Jessy Yip Lee Lean, Buff Ooi Boon Pin and Penny Tan Ai Pei of High Cut Academy in Malaysia dominated the Team of the Year Category.

The winners were judged by some of the most respected names in the industry, among them Yuto Kaminazuki, a celebrated hairdresser in Japan; Anthony Whitaker, Schwarzkopf Professional's global ambassador; Geoffrey Herberg, who has received over 500 awards in local, state, national and international hairstyling competitions; Tyler Johnson, Schwarzkopf Professional's global editorial ambassador whose clients include David and Victoria Beckham, Robbie Williams; and Mario Portes, one of the most sought-after graphic designers in the UK.

Joining Ramos as the country's representatives in the prestigious competition were Marlon Tantiado of Fix Bench, R2 Tolentino of Huelgas Hairdressing, Harry Acuña and Ody Coronel of Indigo Salon.

Introduced as the first regional hairdressing awards in 1999, Schwarzkopf Professional Asia Hairdressing Awards is the only awards program that recognizes hairdressing excellence across seven Asian countries, such as China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

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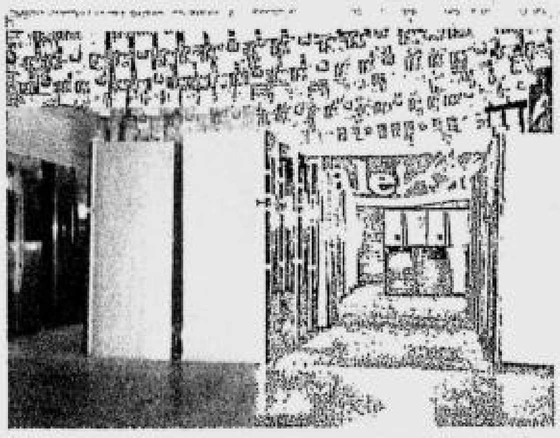
25 days and counting

a pre-christmas shopping supplement

GE's Annual Warehouse Sale times two!



On the lookout all year for the best-value shopping experience for quality home appliances? Ready? Well fret no more and head to GE's annual class B Warehouse Sale. It is there where you put those shopping urges to rest, as discounts of up to 50 percent are offered among the on hand "class B" items-these are first-hand, never been used units that were retail display units consequently with minor scratches, dents, or simply without boxes. To make it more exciting, GE has now two exciting locations to serve you.

First stop is MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio, where you get to enjoy a wide selection of All-GE refrigerators. Explore the extensive lineup of refrigerators with hundreds of units on sale in a 160 sqm display area. Pick your choice of single door refs, 2-door direct cool refs, stainless steel refs and even side-by-side refrigerators, ready to serve you daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

As if this is not enough, you may then proceed to the next shopping destination, GE Appliances' main office at the heart of Pasig City. Located at 103 Mercedes Avenue, Barangay San Miguel, Pasig City, it is open from Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Have the privilege of picking out durable and efficient home appliance essentials ranging from a variety of refrigerators, upright and chest freezers, air conditioners, washing machines, water dispensers, microwave ovens, built-in hobs, built-in ovens, range hoods, gas and electric ranges. Not only that, the sale is also joined by other brands like Ariston by Indesit, Fabriano, Daewoo, Brother, Honeywell, Vicks, Babyliss, Uniden, and Alcatel for your office equipment needs, health /personal care products, and telecommunication gadgets.

So come ye, come all and get the best deals out of your bonuses this season and usher the coming year with the latest home appliances at amazing prices from GE. The sale will run until Dec. 31. Call GE's MC Home Depot showroom at 815-8875 for more details on how to get these exhilarating deals from GE.

Time to get an air-cleaning gadget

Residents of Metro Manila breathe dirty air every day of the year. A study has found that air pollution in Metro Manila is worsening, and if not immediately addressed, the city may not be suitable anymore for human habitation within 10 years. Lead, found in the exhaust fumes of motor vehicles and which finds its way into residential areas, is the most harmful toxin to children because it adversely affects the nervous system, decreases their IQs, and slows down motor skills. In these gadget-crazy times when everything from cellphones to computers are selling like hotcakes, it certainly makes sense to have the latest and most effective gadget as a safeguard against these harmful air impurities.

There are many brands and manufacturers of air purifiers today, each using different filter methods, how do you know which is right for you? First look for the Aham (Association of Home Appliance Manufacturer) seal that indicates an independent certification.

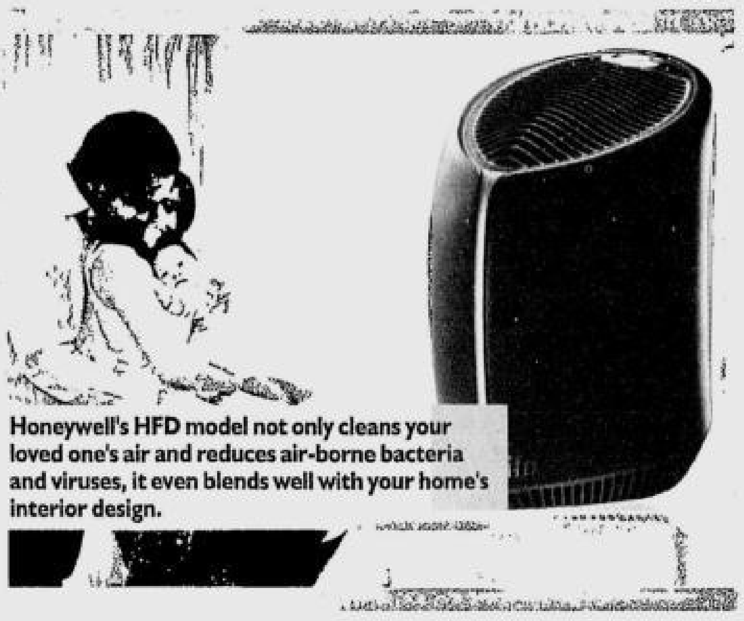
Second, consider the type of filter inside. There are three basic types: True 99.97-percent Hepa- air cleaner filters for patients with very severe allergy or asthma illnesses. These doctor-recommended filters have an efficiency of 99.97 percent (0.3 microns) making them beneficial for asthma and allergy patients.

Ionic products-These units are often shown on television but have very little proven effectiveness. The collecting plates will get dirty, but they generally lack enough power to clean a room of irritating particles. They also may emit low levels of ozone which give off an "electric" smell and could irritate some forms of asthma. These products typically have small cleaning range-four to five-foot-square according to Aham standards.

Intense Field Dielectric (IFD) a breakthrough method featuring a permanent and highly effective electronic diffusion filter system. It is proven to help remove dust, pollen, dander and tobacco smoke particles from the room. Efficiencies can range from 95 to 99 percent. These are recommended for most people seeking an air purifier for relief from seasonal allergies and who are seeking an effective and low maintenance way to clean the air in their home. The filter is cleanable and permanent, thus providing great savings.

Since 1959, Honeywell has been designing, manufacturing and selling air cleaners that effectively trap and filter up to 99.97 percent of airborne impurities like staining dirt, smoke and bacteria. Honeywell manufactures only doctor-recommended true Hepa and IFD filters, making it a true advocate of indoor air cleanliness. In fact, its latest IFD permanent filter model, the QuietClean Air Purifier (HFD-806-AP3), boasts of the new Dual Ultraviolet Light feature that reduces bacteria and viruses. It also boasts of a Hepa Performance of up to 99 percent air purification and a permanent filter that needs no replacement, ever.

For inquiries, visit or call authorized distributors at Ariston/Indesit showrooms: Shangri-La (631-8282), and at MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio (815-8875). It's also available in True Value, Handyman, Rustan's, Duty Free Philippines, Royal Duty Free, Puregold, Ansons Emporium, SM and Western Branches.



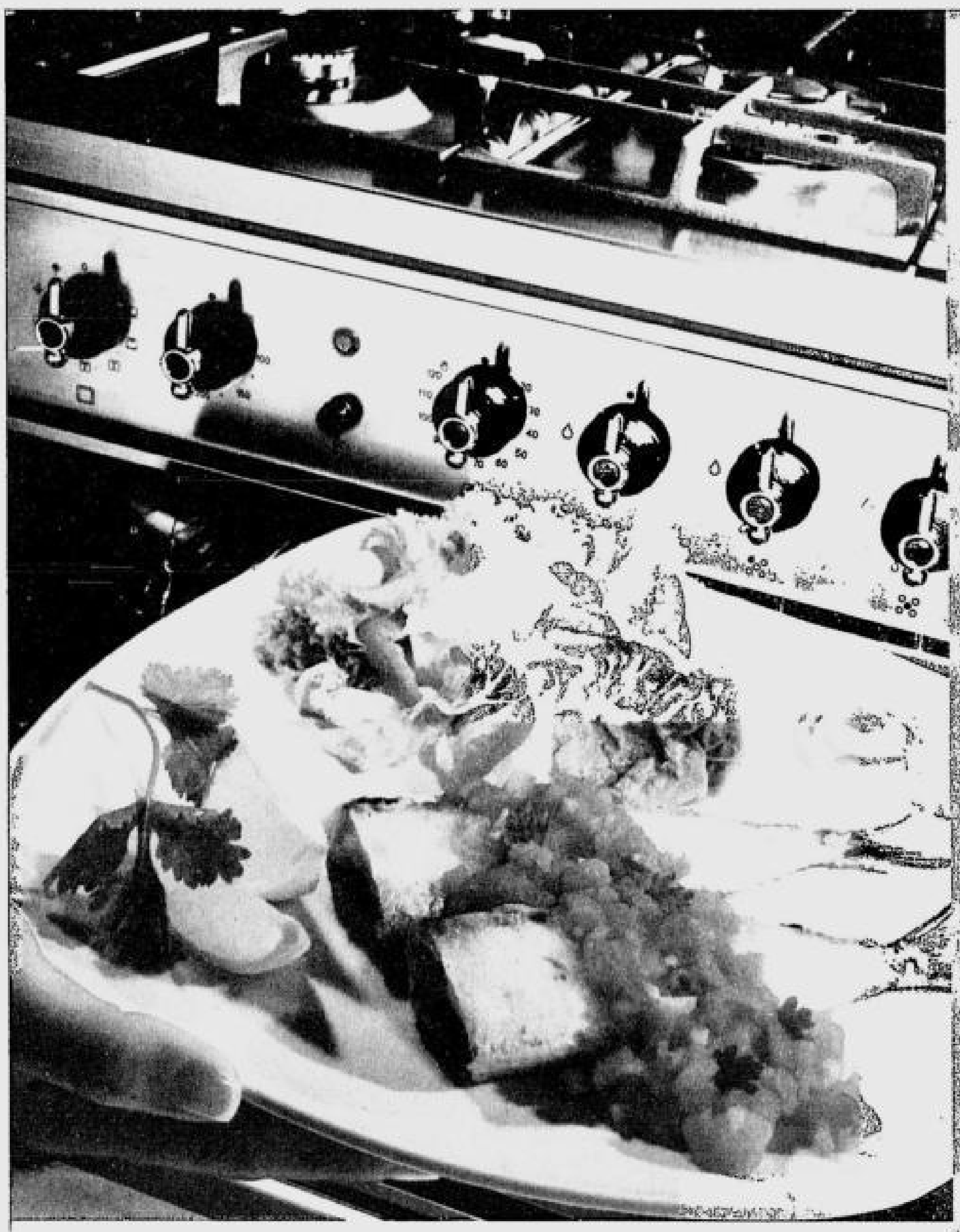
Honeywell's HFD model not only cleans your loved one's air and reduces air-borne bacteria and viruses, it even blends well with your home's interior design.

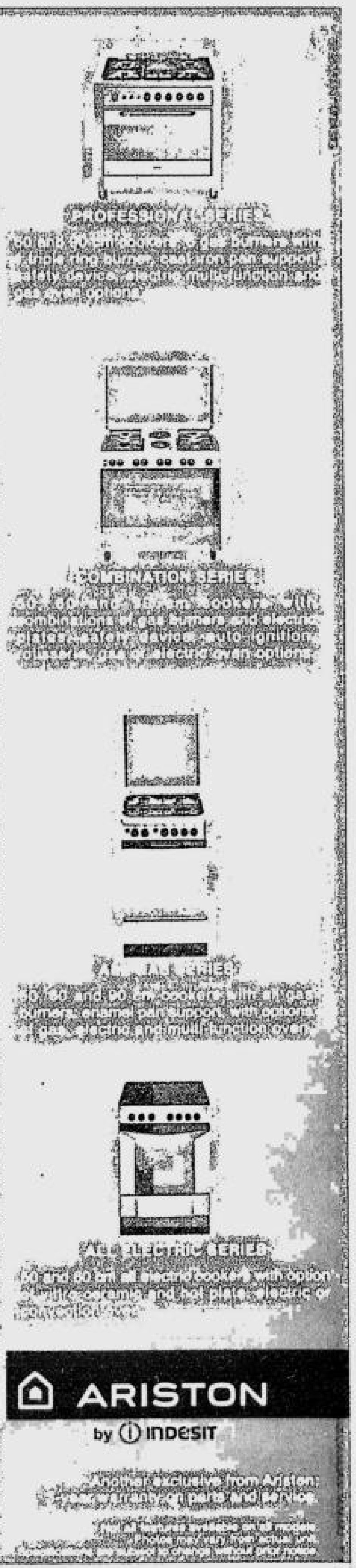
'Tis the season for good old chocolates!

The joyous Christmas season will soon be upon us and with it comes plenty of merrymaking and great food, one of which is chocolates, undoubtedly an all-time favorite of many people. Throughout the years, people the world over have come to trust and choose Cadbury for their chocolate needs because of its rich taste and wide assortment of flavors. Recently, Cadbury introduced Cadbury Old Gold. "Cadbury Old Gold represents yet another exciting step forward for Cadbury and chocoholics worldwide," says Cadbury product manager Geraldine Gilera. Offering a refined taste of smooth dark chocolate with a depth of flavour, Cadbury Old Gold delivers a silky, delicious taste that lingers. Dark chocolate serves as an exquisite cap to an elegant meal, thanks to its bittersweet taste. This Christmas, Cadbury also introduces the Cadbury Festive Packs, which make for ideal presents, or as desserts. Beautifully packaged and filled with a wide variety of Cadbury chocolates like Dairy Milk, Cashew Nuts and Almond Nuts, these gift packs are guaranteed to be a hit this festive Yuletide season. Thanks to Cadbury, there's yet another reason to make Christmases even more festive-and delicious-than ever before.

MOMS AND KIDS SAMPLE JUS' 4 KIDS AT MEGAMALL

Pharmaceutical company Sydenham Laboratories Inc recently gave a special treat to mothers and their children during a three-day fair in SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Sydenham offered free samples of its health juice drink, Juslicious Jus' 4 Kids, to mothers and their kids and sponsored a coloring activity for them. Jus' 4 Kids is a natural fruit juice drink ideal for children up to 13 years old. The product has been approved by the Department of Health, through its Sangkap Pinoy Seal program, and the Bureau of Food and Drug. The juice is packed with Chlorella Growth Factor, which helps enhance children's growth, and Taurine, which enhances brain development. The drink is also fortified with Vitamins A, C, E, Zinc and Iodine to help strengthen a child's immune system. Jus' 4 Kids was recently cited by England-based publication "Beverage Innovations" as one of a growing number of vitamin-enriched health beverages worldwide that offer a multitude of health benefits. Jus' 4 Kids, which comes in mango and orange flavors, is available in leading supermarkets including SM, Robinsons, Puregold, Shopwise, Waltermart, South, Landmark, Cherry, Ever, and other secondary outlets.





Now you can serve sumptuous Sardina Piccante to your Amigas.

In English? Spicy sardines. But who cares? It doesn't matter what you serve. What matters is how it was prepared. And with Ariston kitchen appliances, the argument ends there. Ariston appliances are 100% Italian made, built for those with a discerning taste and flair for kitchen fashion.

There are cookers. Then, there's Ariston.

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LIFESTYLE

Shop, look *and* listen

HEAD of Samsung Mobile Phones Fe Varilla, sales manager of Samsung Cebu Louie Liston and Binggoy Mau

DISCOVER a wide array of stylish and multifunctional consumer products in the Samsung concept shops.

SAMSUNG SEEKS TO evolve new lifestyles based on the mobile phone by striking a balance between consumer needs and mobile-phone aesthetics and technology.

Toward that lifestyle, the electronics leader is beefing up its nationwide retail-expansion program and bringing the Samsung experience closer to consumers.

Samsung Mobile's concept shops showcase a wide array of Samsung products catering to all consumer needs in the digital age.

Enter the concept shop and you'll see white lounges that beckon you to linger.

Check out the different models of Samsung mobile phones, which are conveniently displayed for your better appreciation. Also check the wide array of mobile phone accessories, from Bluetooth headsets to batteries, adopters and chargers.

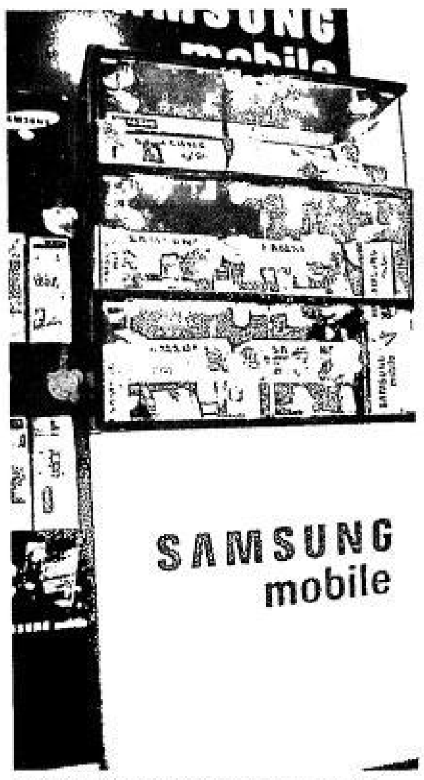
Featured are the latest in mobile technology, including the trendy F200, a tiny powerhouse of multimedia mobility; the F210 swivel and flick phone, the super slim F330, the colorful and eye-catching E840, the power-packed J750, the hip L600 and the 5-megapixel phone G600.

For information, browse through the Samsung PVI (Product Value Information) kiosk. Or ask the Samsung front liners who are more than willing to entertain your queries. For repairs, try the after-sales services.

Also showcased are Samsung's avant-garde monitors and printers and TV sets.

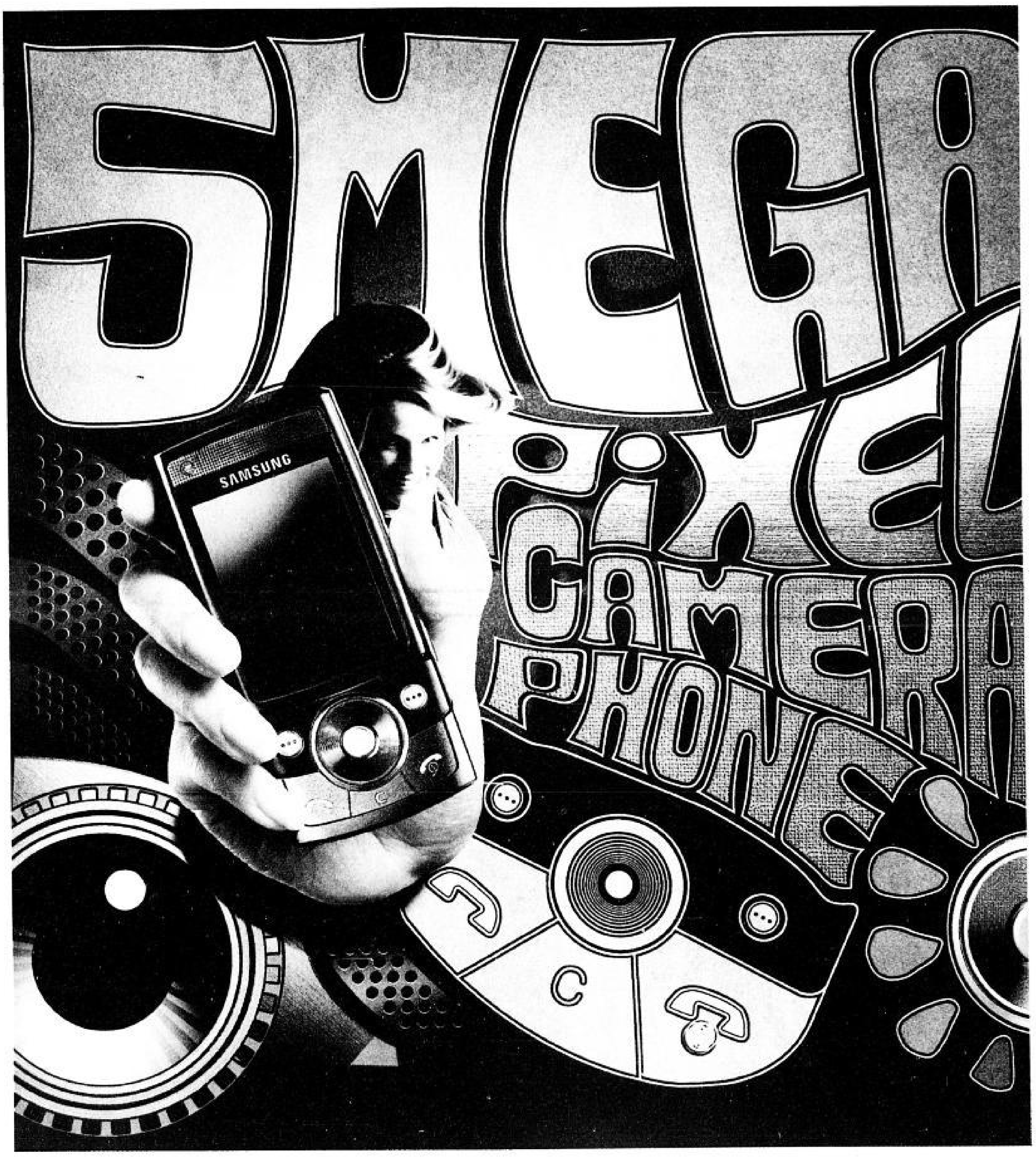
"We are very happy to finally have a presence at the heart of different key cities in the country, as markets in these areas are very important to us," said Spencer Shim, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics

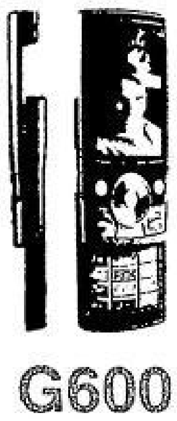
SHOP/12



CHOOSE from the Samsung mobile phones on display.

SAMSUNG concept shop open in Ayala Center Cebu. Asian Homes dealer and Head of Samsung Mobile Phones Fe Varilla, Samsung general manager Jerry Lacson and Jun Yap of Junrex





imagine the power of 5

Imagine the colors and images inside a new generation of camera phone. It's style and technology bursting with clarity and vibrancy, all to the power of 5 Megapixels. Could this be the next trend? With the Samsung G600, it's not that hard to imagine. ph.samsungmobile.com

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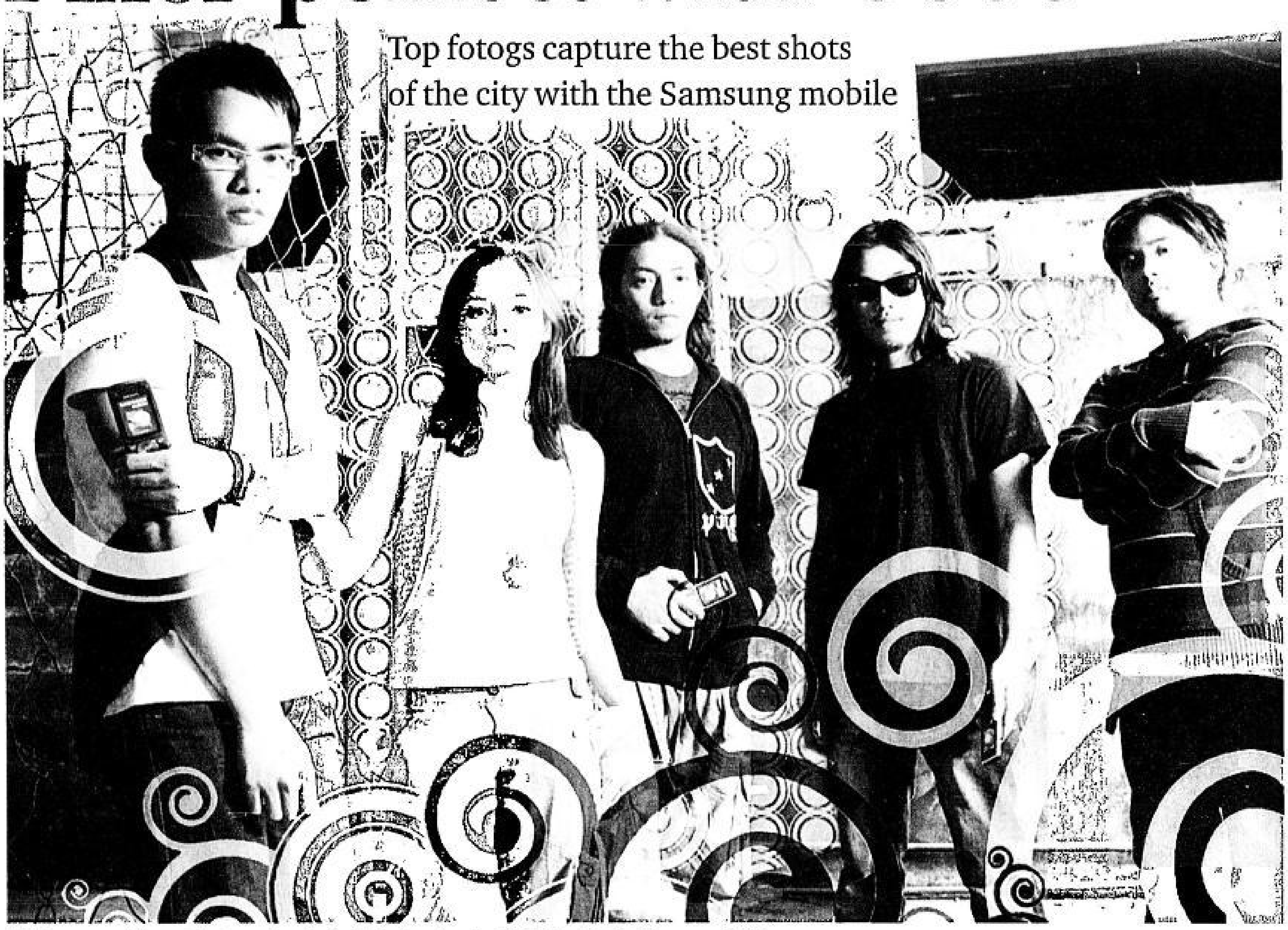
SAMSUNG

Pixel-perfect with G600

Top fotogs capture the best shots of the city with the Samsung mobile



FIVE young and vibrant photographers take to the streets using their Pixel Perfect Samsung G600.

LET LOOSE FIVE PHOTOGRAPHERS ON the streets armed with the Samsung G600 and you'll get a plethora of moments captured in a 5-megapixel sleek and multifunctional mobile phone.

Samsung Mobile has done just that. It has gathered five young and vibrant photographers to prove the capabilities of the stylish G600 mobile phone.

Housed in a fashionable black two-toned slider shell and equipped with a 5-megapixel camera, the Samsung G600 is a fusion of design, photography and the ultimate in phone functionality.

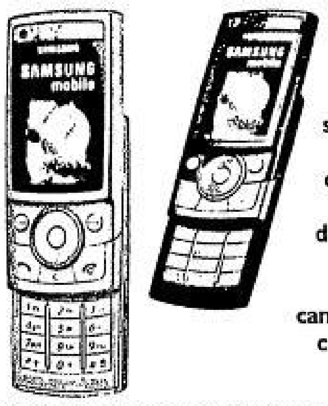
Get creative with various modes such as panoramic or mosaic settings. Enjoy the built-in Power LED flash, image stabiliser and image enhancer.

For a better viewing experience, the Samsung G600 incorporates a 2.2" LCD with 16 million colors, a 5 megapixel multifunction imaging system and full Bluetooth v.2 connectivity.

Enjoy the embedded MP3 player and browse the Internet through NetFront Browser v.3.4, which provides PC-like browser capabilities on your mobile.

All these and more bundled into a tiny 102 mm by 47.8 mm by 14.9 mm frame. No matter where or how it is being used, look and feel great with the Samsung G600.

Witness the unveiling of the Samsung G600 and a photo exhibit on Dec. 5 at the Greenbelt 3 Park Ayala Center. The exhibit will run until Dec. 11.



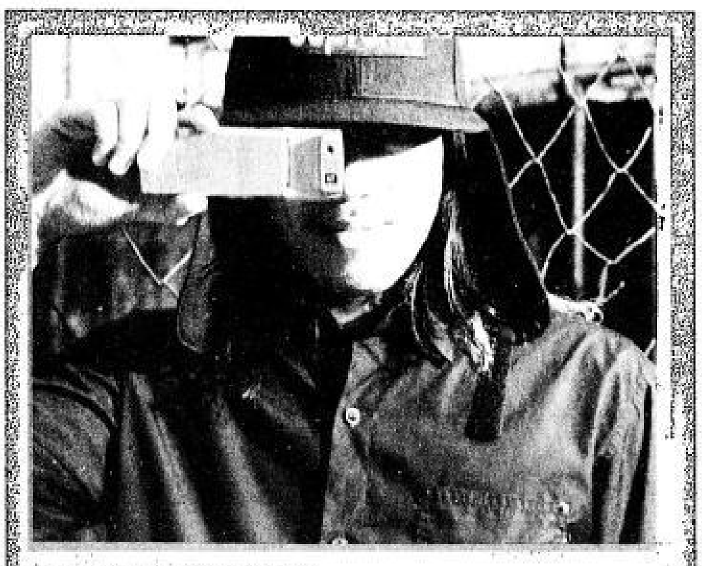
WITH the super slim 5 megapixel camera and sleek slider design of the Samsung G600, you can't get more cutting edge than this.

RONNIE SALVACION

With a sharp eye and a fascination for all things interesting, Ronnie Salvacion turns even the most mundane of things into stunning portraits. He admires every photo he has taken, reminiscing the very moment of its inception. Capturing photos that become part of the country's landscape is his greatest achievement. Ronnie tests the power of the Samsung G600's LED flash by shedding light to the beauty of night scenes with Pixel Perfect.

NOELLE HERNANDEZ

Being a former model, Noelle Hernandez understands what it's like to be the focus of the camera. She has been taking photos for a year now and loves capturing people and travel. She opens her mind to all possibilities and she's always in awe of the beauty of nature, Noelle's masterpieces come from her fresh perspective. She has been experimenting on the different techniques of photography in search of her own style. With the Samsung G600 and its various functions and shot modes, she unveils the secrets of the city.



STEVE TIRONA

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Stop, look and listen

From page J1

SAMSUNG mobile

CHECK out your favorite Samsung mobile phones at your own pace.

LOUIE Liston, head of Samsung Mobile Phones Fe Varilla, Jun Yap of Junrex, Henry Chua of Asian Homes, Samsung general manager Jerry Lacson and Binggoy Mau

SAMSUNG mobile
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SAMSUNG mobile
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INDULGE in the many treasures of the Samsung mobile-concept shops. From Samsung mobile phones to accessories, you'll find it all here.

From page J1

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Visit the Samsung Mobile concept shops in Robinson's Galleria, Cyberzone SM North Edsa, Ayala Center Cebu and Limketkai Cagayan de Oro. Visit www.samsung.com.

Pixel-perfect with G600

Top fotogs capture the best shots of the city with the Samsung mobile

FIVE young and vibrant photographers take to the streets using their Pixel Perfect Samsung G600.

LET LOOSE FIVE PHOTOGRAPHERS ON the streets armed with the Samsung G600 and you'll get a plethora of moments captured in a 5-megapixel sleek and multifunctional mobile phone.

Samsung Mobile has done just that. It has gathered five young and vibrant photographers to prove the capabilities of the stylish G600 mobile phone.

Housed in a fashionable black two-toned slider shell and equipped with a 5-megapixel camera, the Samsung G600 is a fusion of design, photography and the ultimate in phone functionality.

Get creative with various modes such as panoramic or mosaic settings. Enjoy the built-in Power LED flash, image stabiliser and image enhancer.

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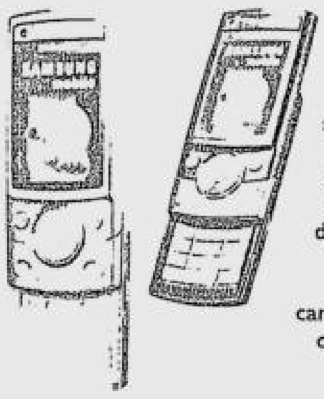

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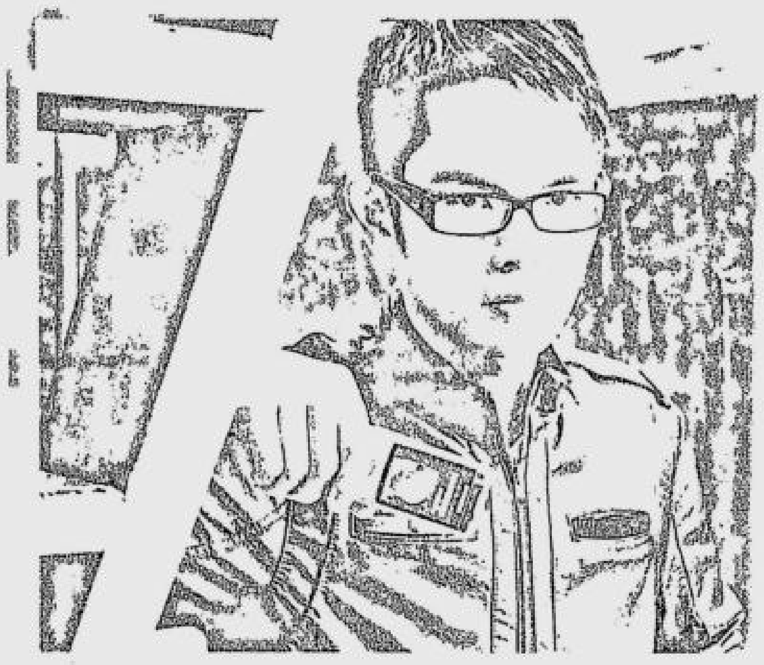

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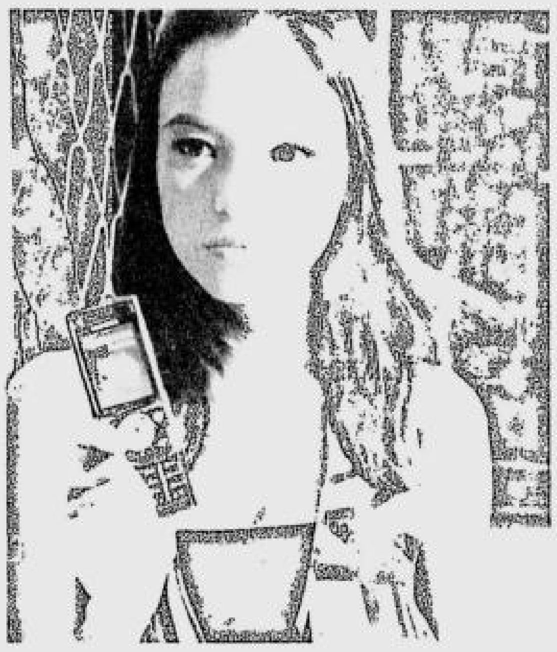

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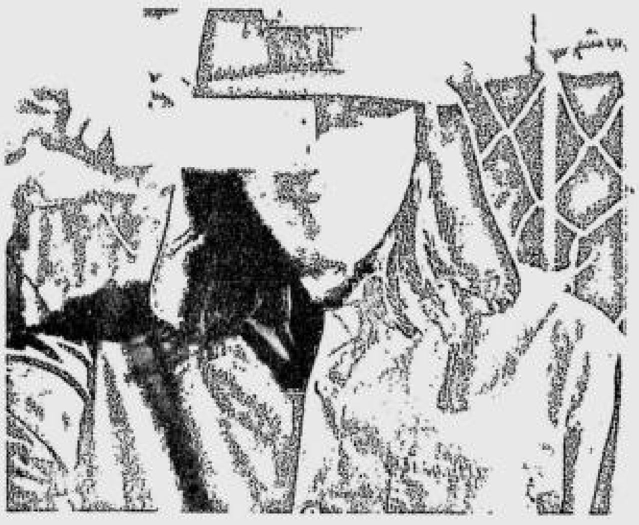

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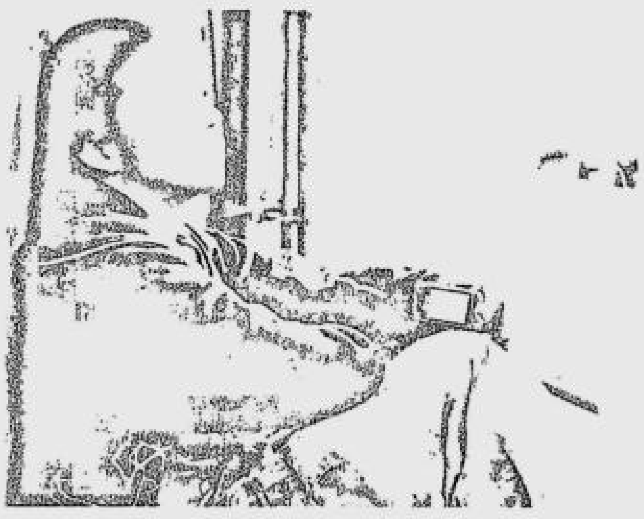

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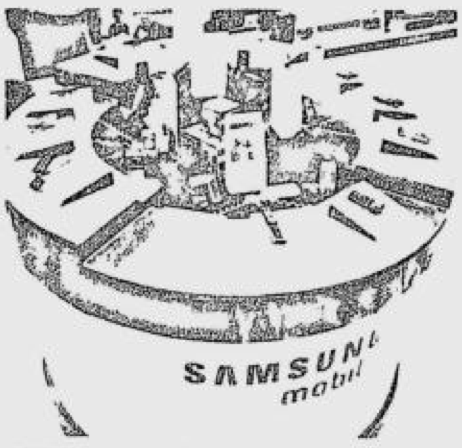

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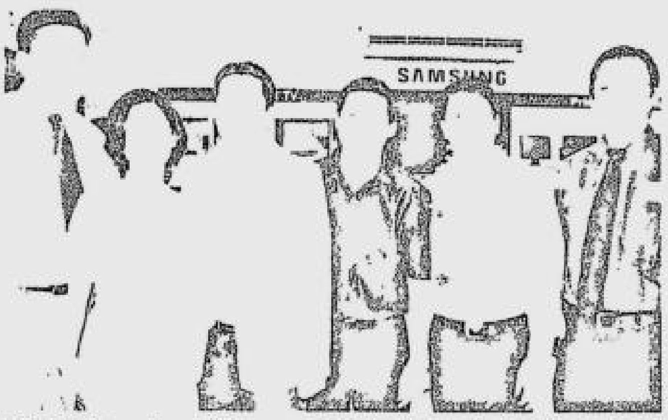
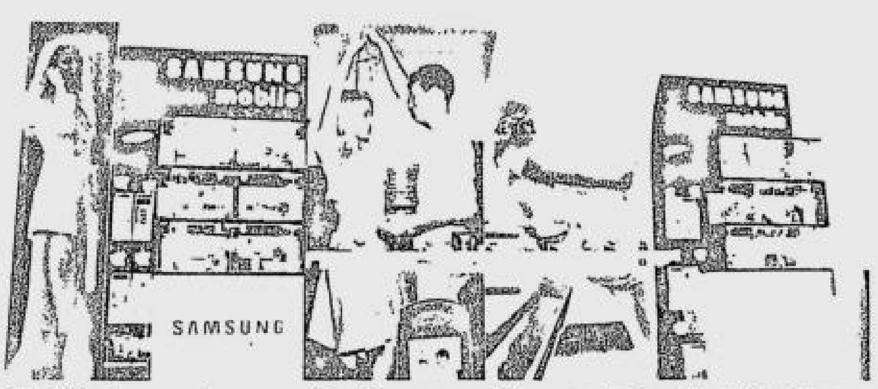


LOUIE Liston, head of Samsung Mobile Phones Fe Varilla, Jun Yap of Junrex, Henry Chua of Asian Homes, Samsung general manager Jerry Lacson and Binggoy Mau



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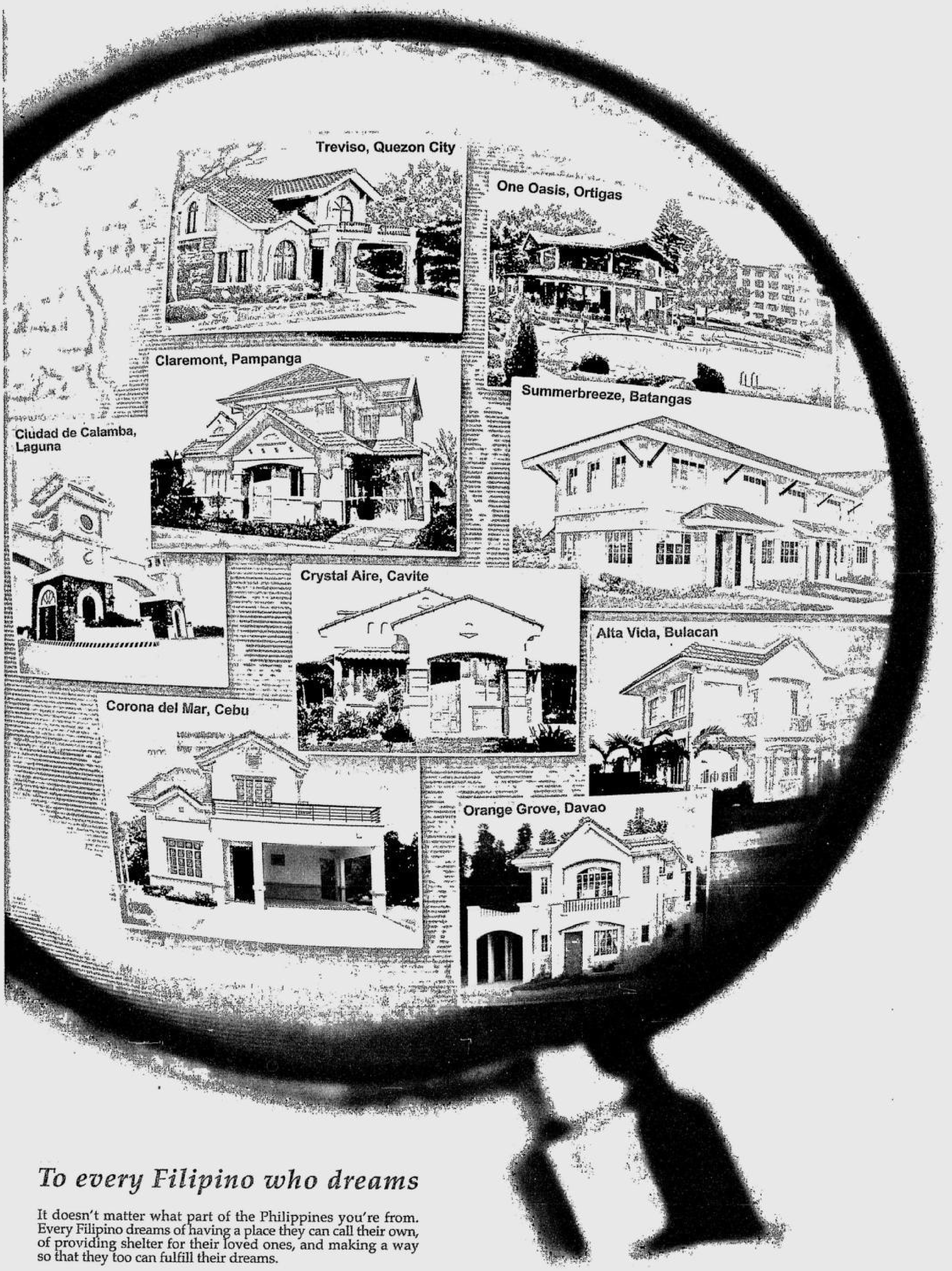
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One Oasis, Ortigas
Claremont, Pampanga
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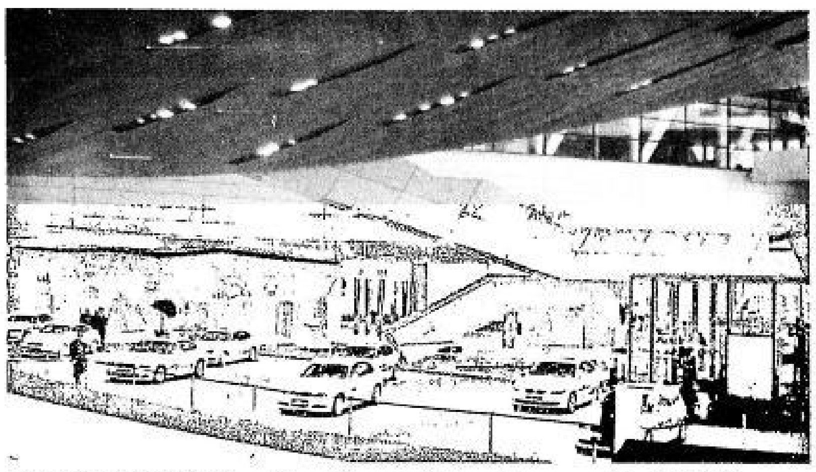
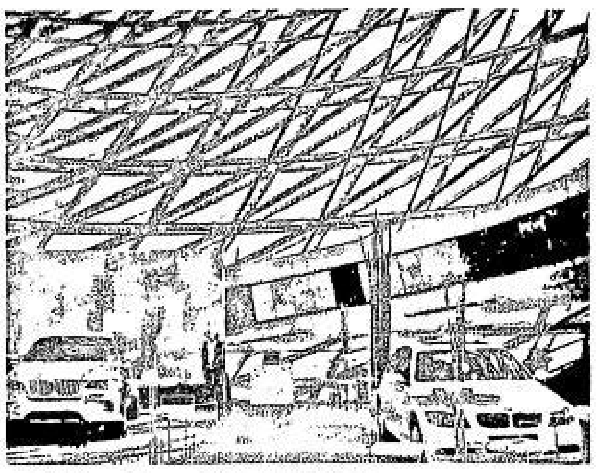
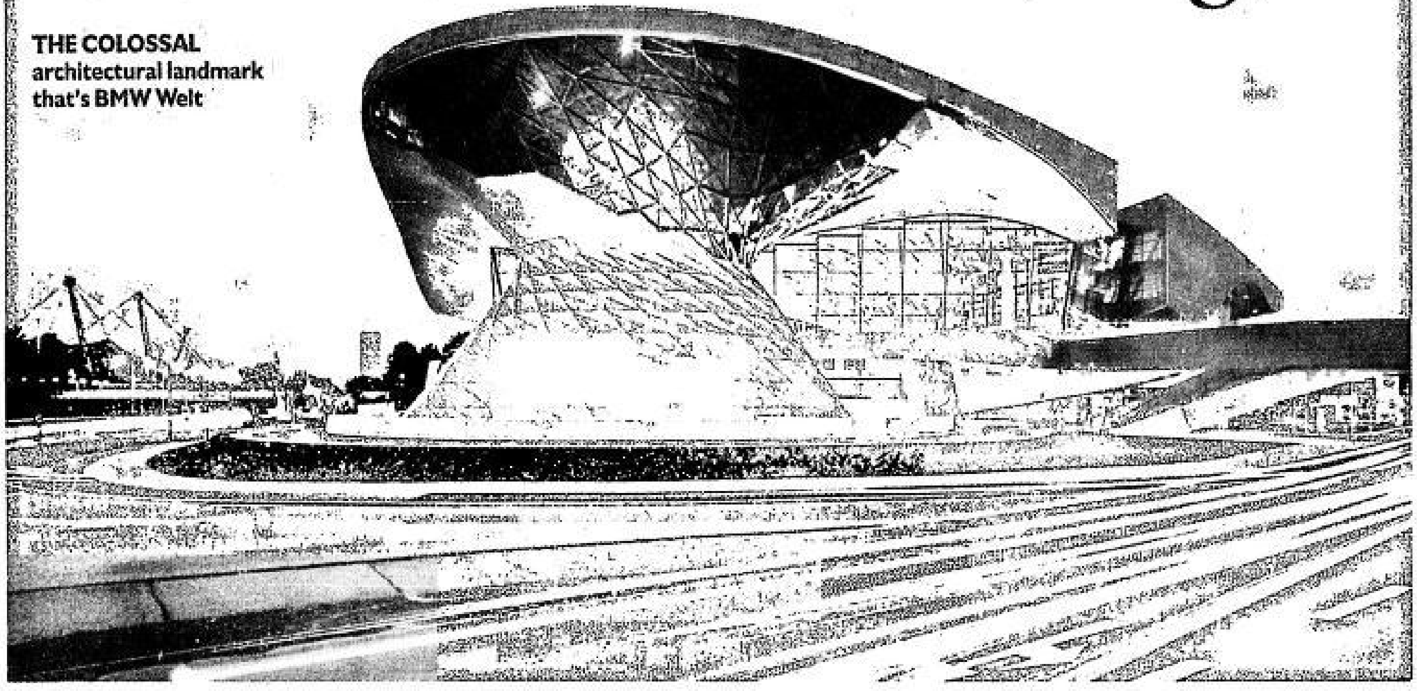
A FANTASTIC view of BMW Welt from the second floor


EYE-CATCHING design of the wide second floor where eco-friendly BMW cars are on display


ULTRA-modern architectural design

Awesome Bavarian design

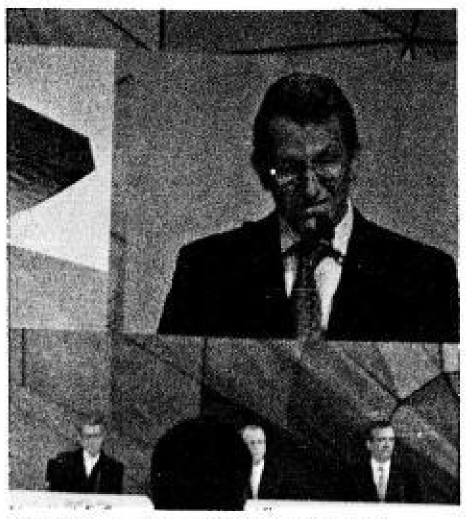

THE COLOSSAL architectural landmark that's BMW Welt

THIRD-FLOOR restaurant

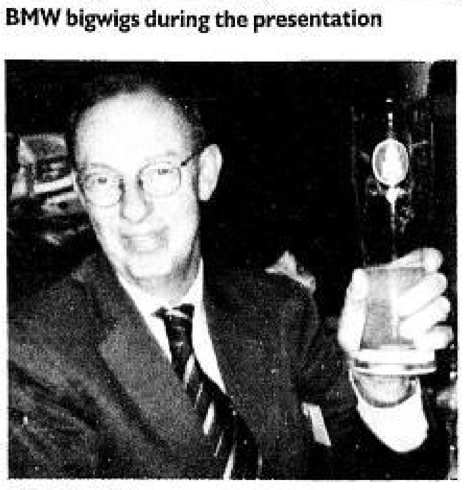
BMW's K 1200 R Motorcycle

SIDE by side, the Four-Cylinder and the BMW Museum

FAREWELL dinner with other journalists from Asia. (From left, clockwise) Indonesian journalist Pepper Teehankee, freelance writer Ong Shu Chiang, Wealth Magazine Singapore editor Kannan Chandran, Michael Lim and *moi*


BMW bigwigs during the presentation

ANDREAS Kunz, corporate and intergovernmental affairs strategy, planning and steering


ALBRECHT Proebst, BMW Welt department manager for finance and operations

MICHAEL T.H. Lim, Singapore-based Asia regional director, BMW Corporate Affairs

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

FOR THREE DAYS THE BIG B WAS the talk of Munich in Germany. The talk was about the colossal structure with the humongous roof and the unbelievably wide span. It was also about the three days of celebration, starting with the opening of the BMW Welt (as in BMW World), dahlings. The building was constructed exactly on the spot in Munich where the BMW brand was created and where its global success story began.

Upon our arrival aboard Lufthansa, we were fetched from the airport in one of BMW's gorgeous cars and booked at the Arabella Sheraton Grand Hotel Munich.

That evening, 580 journalists from all over the world were received at the authentic Bavarian restaurant Hafbräuhaus Keller, where we were treated to the to-die-for dinner.

We were introduced to one another by **Michael Kirsch**, vice president for communications strategy and corporate messages in the BMW Group, who welcomed us with the famous Bavarian hospitality.

He then introduced us to the brilliant mind behind the architectural wonder that's the BMW Welt, **Wolf D. Prix** from Coop Himmelb(l) au in Vienna, a leading avant-garde architecture firm.

Prix, who has received international prizes and awards in the course of his career, explained to us the concept of the building.

On our way to the building the next day, our jaws dropped at the sight of the fantastic structure. There, we had our breakfast and snacks, before a press conference given by high-ranking hotshots of the BMW Group.

By lunch time we were joined by 800 invitees from Munich and around Europe. Welcoming us were the newly-elected prime minister of Bavaria and Dr. **Norbert Reithofer**, chair of the board of management of BMW AG.

Once all the speeches and the fab program were over, we made a grand tour of the building.

Let me tell you, the BMW Welt is an absolute masterpiece of architectural innovation and creative power. It is as high as the Parthenon in Rome and its roof has the dimensions of St. Mark's Square in Venice.

Looking at the inside alone is an awesome feeling. The design, as Michael Kirsch explained, is subject to the same rules as all BMW cars. "Their dynamic appearance is effective, their refined forms are captivating," he said.

But mind you, dahlings, this is not only a building for BMW cars and other BMW brands.

Now take note! It has an auditorium for all kinds of events; a business center with two huge rooms, adjusting flexibly to the organizers' requirements; a business club, so impressively exclusive that if I had not seen it with my own eyes, I'd never believe it. It could host close-shop meetings and easily adjust to a fire-place lounge, offering a stylish ambiance.

In the building is also the outstanding Club Restaurant with its excellent cuisine, which ensures that culinary delights of the highest standard will be served.

The resto also has a grand veranda for outdoor dining with views of the BMW Museum, with its striking "Dish," and the four-cylinder BMW Building, also designed by Prix and already acknowledged as a "symbol of dynamism" and "an expression of the future."

If you want to try something else, go to the Club Restaurant, where you will get the feeling of hovering in space, where you will be offered a fantastic choice of superb culinary delights. You may also venture into the International Resto, open daily from 11 a.m. till midnight. Hangouts include the Coffee Bar, The Bistro, and many other pluses that BMW Welt has to offer.

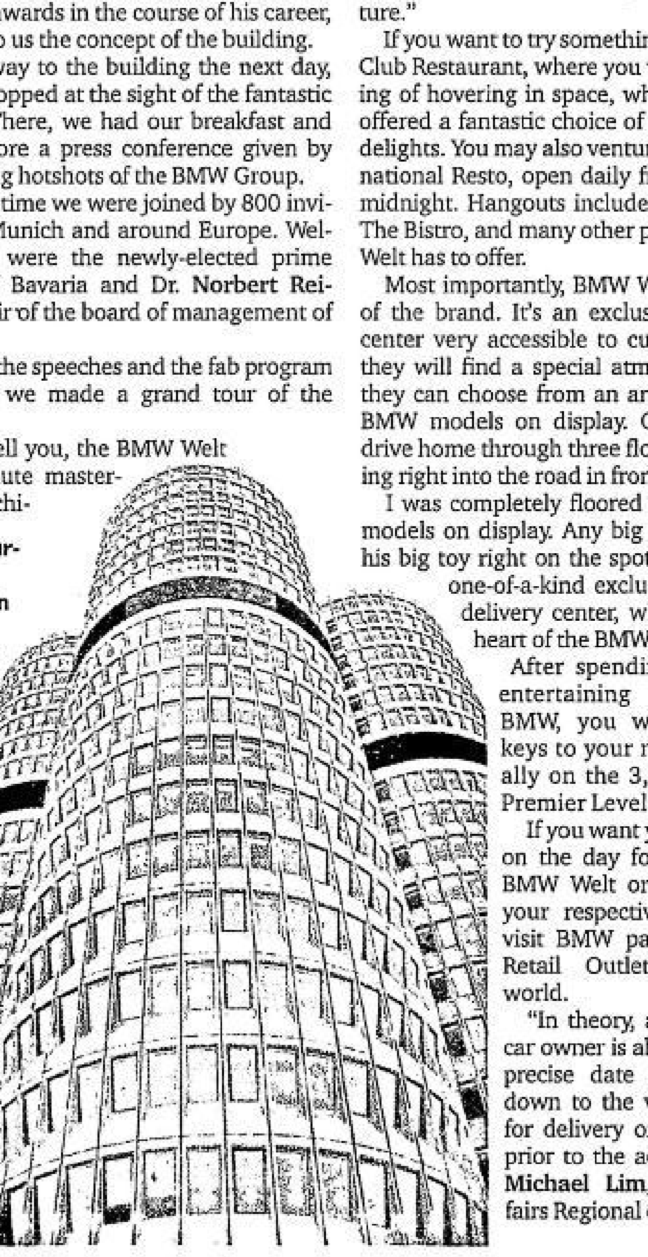
Most importantly, BMW Welt is the home of the brand. It's an exclusive car pick-up center very accessible to customers, where they will find a special atmosphere, where they can choose from an array of gorgeous BMW models on display. Car buyers may drive home through three floors of the building right into the road in front of BMW Welt.

I was completely floored by the different models on display. Any big boy can choose his big toy right on the spot. After all, it's a one-of-a-kind exclusive automobile delivery center, which is the very heart of the BMW Welt.

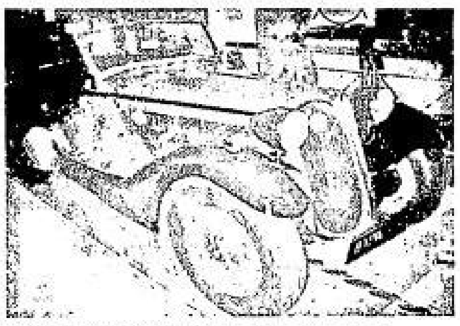
After spending a couple of entertaining hours with BMW, you will receive the keys to your new car personally on the 3,000-sq m huge Premier Level.

If you want your order ready on the day for pickup at the BMW Welt or sent to you in your respective country, just visit BMW partners or BMW Retail Outlets around the world.

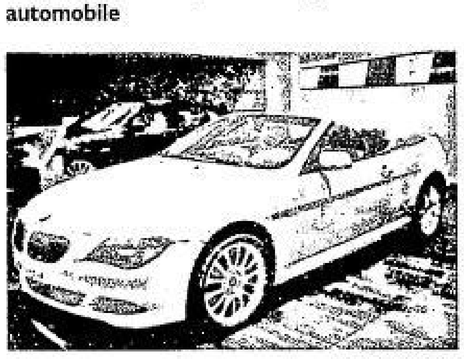
"In theory, at least the new car owner is able to specify the precise date and time right down to the very last minute for delivery of his car, month prior to the actual date," said **Michael Lim**, Corporate Affairs Regional director of BMW.

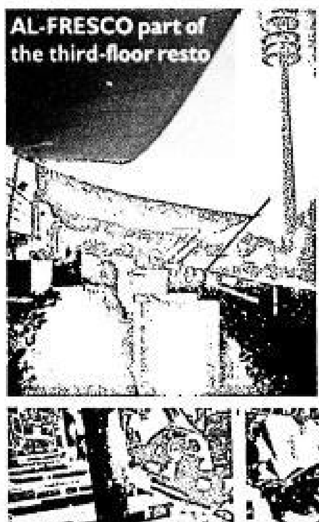

BMW Four-Cylinder Building in Munich, Germany

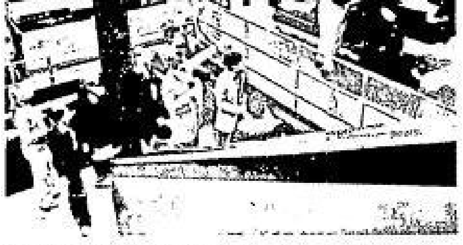
WHITE BMW Coupe


VINTAGE BMW 3135 red sports car on display at hotel lobby

BMW's eco-friendly Efficient Dynamics automobile


GORGEOUS metallic oyster-gray convertible sports car, part of BMW's Individual 650i series


AL-FRESCO part of the third-floor resto


AT THE BMW plant where the fabled cars are assembled

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INSIDE
☐ Cate Blanchett plays a man, gets pregnant InHollywood /K4
☐ Young male leads in tight race for major stardom Viewfinder /K3

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SUNSHINE Dizon

JODI Sta. Maria

Star Awards: A fine mess

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT from the Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC), released on Wednesday, addressed a controversy that has been festering in the tabloids since trophies for the 21st Star Awards for TV were handed out last Nov. 18.

In the statement, the PMPC acknowledged that it was "getting negative reactions from some quarters about [an] alleged payoff… to protect the votes of a certain nominee."

Earlier, in his column items and radio show, show biz reporter/broadcaster Jobert Sucaldito claimed he had given "P36,000 to 12 voting members" on behalf of Best Drama Actress nominee Jodi Sta. Maria, for her work in ABS-CBN's "Walang Kapalit."

Sta. Maria subsequently lost to Sunshine Dizon, who won for her performance in GMA 7's "Bakekang."

In a phone interview Wednesday night with INQUIRER Entertainment, Sucaldito reiterated that he "gave the P36,000—but it was a gift, not a bribe."

He insisted that the cash was "for love of Jodi, but she had nothing to do with it."

He also pointed out that he didn't volunteer the cash gift. Actually, he said, it was solicited by a PMPC member just a week before the awards show.

Two probes

The PMPC statement said that its officials were "willing to face the member who is accusing them of receiving the money."

In a phone interview, PMPC president Fernan de Guzman said the statement was released "to clear the air," adding that an investigation was ongoing.

The statement concluded: "[We] stand firm by the awards given… in all the categories."

Sucaldito countered that he was conducting his own investigation and that he had a list of certain members who received the cash gifts from him—then voted for the eventual winner.

A GMA 7 insider said the network was silent on the matter because "Dizon deserves her award."

Twenty years of rock 'n' roll

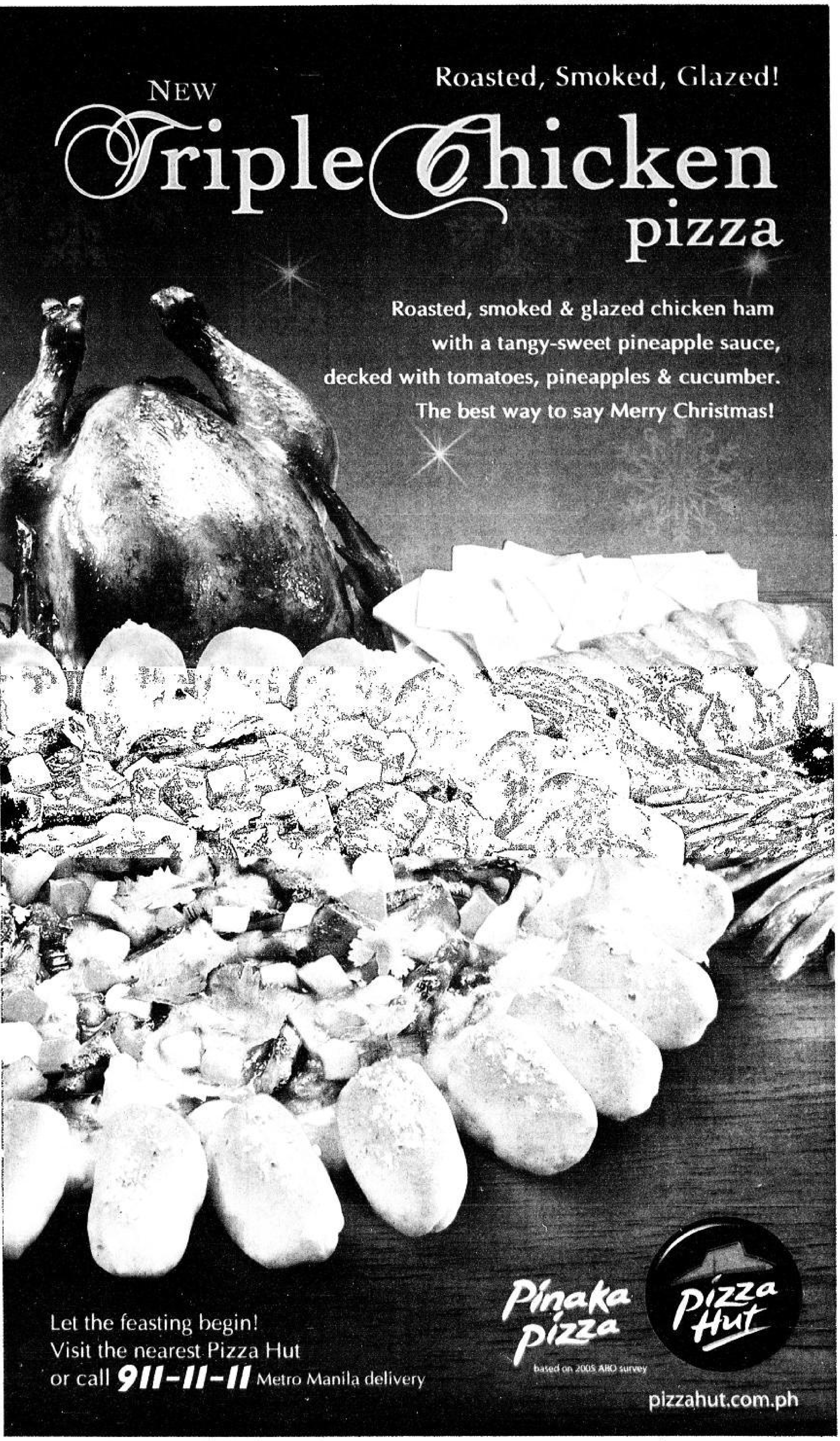
By Pocholo Concepcion

TONIGHT'S NU 107 ROCK AWARDS at the World Trade Center in Pasay is made more meaningful by the fact that the radio station is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

It gets more interesting if one realizes that this same station has never wavered in the faith that rock 'n' roll is not necessarily a destructive passion and/or lifestyle for many young Pinoy fans.

When NU 107 started broadcasting on

TWENTY/ K2



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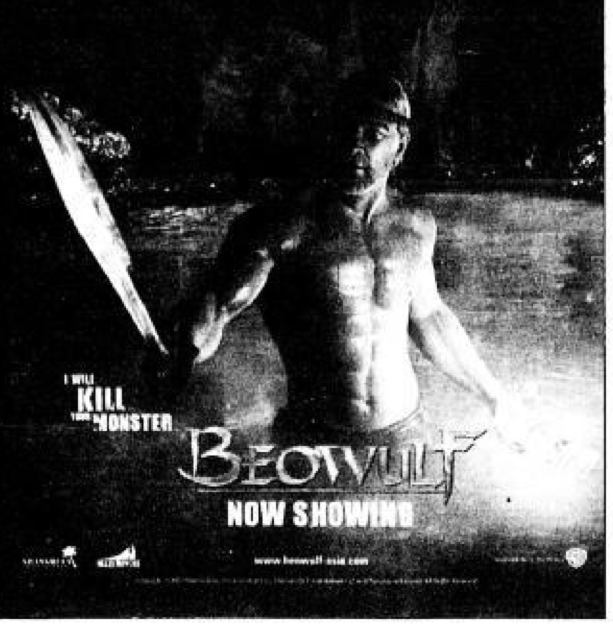

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4. ONE MORE CHANCE
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6. THE KINGDOM
7. BEOWULF
8. ONE MORE CHANCE
9. FRED CLAUSE
10. MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT
11. PASUKOB
12. HITMAN

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2. MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
3. ONE MORE CHANCE
4. HITMAN
5. ENCHANTED
6. BEOWULF
7. FRED CLAUSE
8. BOOGEYMAN 2/ 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
9. LIONS FOR LAMBS
10. PASUKOB
11. MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT
12. THE GAME PLAN

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2. ENCHANTED
3. HIDE & SEEK
4. HITMAN
5. ONE MORE CHANCE
6. BEOWULF
7. THE KINGDOM
8. PASUKOB
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3. ONE MORE CHANCE
4. MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1. MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
2. THE KINGDOM
3. FRED CLAUSE
4. ENCHANTED
5. PASUKOB
6. ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1. ONE MORE CHANCE
2. PASUKOB
3. THE KINGDOM
4. FRED CLAUSE

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1. THE KINGDOM
2. PASUKOB
3. ONE MORE CHANCE
4. HITMAN
5. FRED CLAUSE
6. ENCHANTED
7. MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
8. BEOWULF
9. MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1. THE KINGDOM
2. FRED CLAUSE
3. PASUKOB
4. MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
5. ONE MORE CHANCE
6. THE GAME PLAN
7. BEOWULF
8. ENCHANTED
9. HITMAN
10. MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT

NOW OPEN
SM SUPERCENTER MUNTINLUPA 862 5693

1. PASUKOB
2. FRED CLAUSE
3. MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
4. THE KINGDOM

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1. HITMAN
2. BEOWULF
3. ONE MORE CHANCE
4. PASUKOB
5. MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
6. THE KINGDOM
7. FRED CLAUSE
8. ENCHANTED
9. ONE MORE CHANCE
10. THE GAME PLAN
11. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
12. MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1. BEOWULF
2. THE KINGDOM
3. PASUKOB
4. ONE MORE CHANCE

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UNDER PRESSURE.
OUT OF TIME.
JAMIE FOXX
CHRIS COOPER
JENNIFER GARNER
THEKINGDOM

FBI Special Agent Ronald Fleury (Jamie Foxx) has just received the assignment of his career: to assemble an elite team (Jennifer Garner, Chris Cooper, and Jason Bateman) and to go to Riyadh to hunt down and capture the terrorist mastermind behind a deadly attack on Americans working in Saudi Arabia. The feds have only one week to infiltrate and cripple a cell bent on jihad to western society.

No training would prepare Fleury and his team for the disorienting culture shock they face once inside this scorching foreign land: a byzantine maze of profiteering politicians and storefront terrorists. Bound by handlers who refuse to play ball with the U.S., the agents quickly find the local law enforcement more hindrance than help and soon grow uncertain of anybody's allegiance.

But when a sympathetic Saudi police captain helps them navigate Riyadh politics and investigate the true cause of the attack, Fleury finds an unexpected comrade-in-arms. In their lightning-fast attempt to crack the case, the partners's search leads them straight to the killers's front door. Now in a fight for their own lives, two teams on opposite sides of the war on terror won't stop until justice is found in The Kingdom.

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2. MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
3. HITMAN
4. ONE MORE CHANCE
5. THE KINGDOM
6. PASUKOB
7. FRED CLAUSE
8. BEOWULF/ ENCHANTED

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1. PASUKOB
2. MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
3. ONE MORE CHANCE
4. BEOWULF

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100

1. PASUKOB
2. ONE MORE CHANCE
3. THE KINGDOM
4. ENCHANTED

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1. PASUKOB
2. THE KINGDOM
3. ONE MORE CHANCE
4. FRED CLAUSE

NOW OPEN
SM CITY TAYTAY 286-2502 to 04

1. THE KINGDOM
2. PASUKOB
3. ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1. ENCHANTED
2. ONE MORE CHANCE
3. PASUKOB
4. BEOWULF

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)6637681-85

1. MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
2. BEOWULF/ HITMAN
3. MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT
4. ONE MORE CHANCE
5. LIONS FOR LAMBS/ ENCHANTED
6. PASUKOB

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340811

1. ENCHANTED
2. ONE MORE CHANCE
3. PASUKOB
4. MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1. ONE MORE CHANCE
2. ENCHANTED
3. PASUKOB
4. THE GAMEPLAN

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1. ENCHANTED
2. PASUKOB
3. ONE MORE CHANCE
4. THE KINGDOM

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1. BEOWULF/ HITMAN
2. ENCHANTED
3. MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT
4. LIONS FOR LAMBS
5. PASUKOB
6. ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1. BEOWULF
2. ENCHANTED
3. PASUKOB
4. ONE MORE CHANCE

VISAYAS
MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

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3. ONE MORE CHANCE
4. ENCHANTED
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6. MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT

SM CAGAYAN DE ORO (088)859-2884

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2. ONE MORE CHANCE
3. PASUKOB
4. ENCHANTED

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1. PASUKOB
2. BEOWULF
3. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4. LIONS FOR LAMBS
5. ENCHANTED
6. ONE MORE CHANCE
7. RESERVED
8. RESERVED

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3. THE KINGDOM
4. MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT
5. ENCHANTED
6. MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
7. PASUKOB
8. ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1. PASUKOB
2. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3. ENCHANTED
4. ONE MORE CHANCE

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

FEEDBACK

Rejoinder from lawyer of Piolo and Sam

I WISH TO THANK JOHN SILVA FOR HIS insights on Hollywood actor Tab Hunter—they are quite informative.

Please be assured that the libel case filed by Messrs. Piolo Pascual and Sam Milby is not an assault on gays who have, indeed, contributed a lot to this industry. Rather, it is to correct a wrong committed by a columnist by writing fabricated and malicious accusations against our clients. (Sgd.) Atty. Joji Alonso

Ang Lee believer

From Cristy Gozon (email ad withheld upon request), sent to columnist Ruben Nepales:

When I watched "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon" a few years ago, I was in awe of the story. It has a colorful background and graceful choreography, too. Chinese films and TV shows appeal to me. I have been watching them since childhood (I'm 41 now). I believe in Ang Lee's work. He's a very creative fimmaker and writer. Whatever he did in "Lust, Caution" (I still have to see it), I'm sure he's done with good taste.

Not a date

From Nina Garcia (ShinIanGlobala@gmail.com), Las Piñas City:

For Dolly Anne Carvajal—Jed Madela and Rachelle Ann Go at Beyonce's concert? That was not a date, if I have to say it again and again. Rachelle got a complimentary ticket from Lani Misalucha's manager. It was beyond her control that it was Jed who held the tickets and gave hers only at the concert venue. I think Jed did that deliberately to make people think they were on a date. Rachelle went with her dad, who was seated in another section. End of the story.

Kudos, InHollywood

From Ronald (ronaldtolentinosing@yahoo.com), *Singapore*:

Ruben Nepales article on Nov. 9 about Jlo and Marc Anthony is great, to say the least. It's fascinating to know that two superstars live a very simple and loving life together. It really made my day.

* * *

From Nicole Alia Hechme (nicole_alia@yahoo.com):

Hello, I was just reading your most recent article about Shakira and "Love in the Time of Cholera." I just want to tell you that Shakira is 30 years old, not 35. But thank you so much for this wonderful article!

Hilarious column

From curica (curica41@yahoo.com):

I just read Dollywood's Christmas carols for feuding stars. It was hilarious! More power!

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a film by Katski Flores

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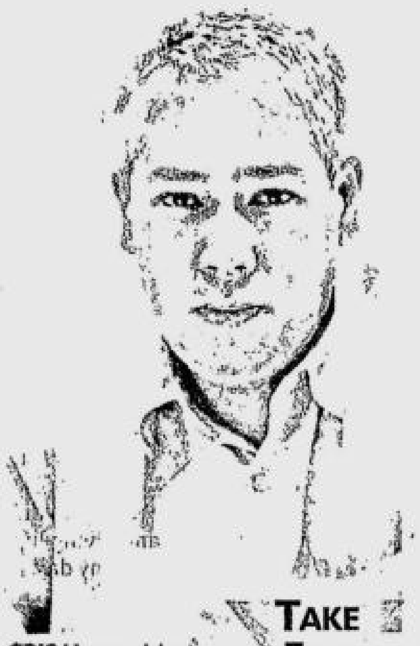

CRIS Hermosisima

TAKE FIVE

Twenty years…

From page K1

the rightmost end of the FM dial, its business prospects were quite risky. At about that time, some former strongholds of rock music programming had kind of lost their vibrancy. And there were few advertisers.

Now, two decades later, on the eve of the Rock Awards, INQUIRER Entertainment asks former DJ, station manager, and now NU's network operations head Cris Hermosisima to reflect on the station's triumphs and principles.

You've been with NU since the start and actually formed the station's pioneering team of DJs. Was there ever a time when management thought of replacing rock as a music format?

Nope! We've always believed in the format and we exert every possible means to keep it alive, especially in relation to the local rock scene.

Why do you think it took so long for the advertising industry to recognize that there was a huge market for rock music?

I guess it was because the music has always been associated with something "negative"—the "sex, drugs and rock n roll" aspect and the violence that marred the concerts. Before, advertisers wouldn't want to be associated with anything that "rocked." What NU 107 did was to erase that negative aspect of rock and open it up to the mainstream, by playing numbers that could cross over to other stations.

There has been criticism that in past NU Rock Awards, winning bands were chosen because the members were connected to the station?

That was because NU jocks, who are also musicians and who happen to be nominated at the Rock Awards, get all the exposure they need without asking for it. But to be fair with everyone, it has now become a rule that if you're connected with the station... sorry, you can no longer be nominated nor win an award.

Which new band, do you think, will make it big next year?

Hilera and Reklamo are shoo-ins for the top next year.

Why do you think NU has survived where others have tried and failed?

I guess it's because of the fact that we're actually the only station that has not reformatted since the start. I think our being consistent all these years have contributed to our success. That is to say, after 20 years, we're still rocking!

How are the awards determined?

The song or album must have been played by the station within a certain eligibility period to qualify for the major awards. This also applies to the musicians, to qualify for the individual awards.

Then we the ask the listeners to vote for their qualified favorites to become the nominees.

Winners are then determined by a select board of judges, who are asked to keep in mind the choices of the listeners and the overall performance qualities of the contenders.

Young male leads in tight race for major stardom

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN LOCAL SHOW BUSINESS, EXCEPT for action-oriented movies and *teleseryes*, male stars tend to be limited to acting as consorts to female luminaries. Now that action films have become passé, the number of major male stars has dipped even further.

Despite this, some young male leads have been positioning themselves this year as front-runners in the race for major stardom. How do their stellar prospects shape up?

Dingdong Dantes' career perked up considerably after his current *teleserye*, "Marimar," became a big hit. He's also come on strong as a hunk on the stripped-down runway. But he sorely needs a big movie to solidify his gains.

Controversial comer

Dennis Trillo top-bills another popular TV series, "Zaido," and has been cited for his performances in some movies, so he's clearly a comer.

On the debit side, however, he's being criticized for opting to keep safely silent about controversies related to his love child with **Carlene Aguilar** and his romance with **Cristine Reyes**.

The criticism could affect his popularity, so some people wish that Dennis do the manly thing and "defend" the women in his life.

For his part, **Richard Gutierrez** has starred in some hit movies and keeps going from one TV series to another. Currently starring in "Kamandag," Richard needs a major movie to make other male contenders realize that he's still the young male star to beat.

John Lloyd Cruz has a hit film, "One More Chance," that's currently showing, and its success has definitely boosted his stock as a young-adult star. He's also top-billing the new "book" of "Maging Sino Ka Man" on TV.

So, everything looks good for his career—with the possible exception of his reputation as an actor of substance, which has been diluted by his relatively facile and "for the fans" performances.

Therefore, if John Lloyd wants to beef up his reputation, he has to work hard to go beyond his "*kilig* factor" and go for the acting jugular.

Vhong Navarro was a big comedy-action comer some years ago, but some of his recent stellar vehicles haven't been doing as well as expected, so he has to reassess his options and redouble his efforts. His most pressing challenge: To make his "Lastikman" series catch up with "Marimar" in the ratings race.

Rayver Cruz has impressed some industry observers with his combination of good looks, youthful enthusiasm, good work ethic and dancing prowess. But he's still waiting for the big TV or film showcase that will really put him on the movie map.

As for **Sam Milby**, he's definitely a hit with the ladies and has been in some hit movies and TV shows. Detracting from his allure and artistic worth is his difficulty in speaking Tagalog, which drastically diminishes the roles he can play, *and* makes his performances less credible than they should be.

More recently, Sam has also had to deal with another issue regarding his masculinity, but he debunks such loose talk. Could it affect his popularity, all the same? Not likely. His present "co-accused," **Piolo Pascual**, has had to contend with similar rumors for years, but he remains as popular as ever. So, Sam is well advised to simply hunker down and stick to his guns until the teapot tempest passes.

Coming soon

"Speed Racer." Based on the series created by animé pioneer **Tatsuo Yoshida**, the big-screen "Speed Racer" follows the adventures of young race car driver speed in his quest for glory in his thundering Mach 5.

This new high-octane actioner combines the revolutionary visual effects and cutting-edge storytelling that have become the benchmarks of the Wachowski brothers' films, like the "Matrix" series.

"10,000 B.C." An action adventure about a young hunter **(Steven Strait)** who goes on a quest, leading an army across a vast desert. He battles saber tooth tigers and prehistoric predators as he unearths a lost civilization and attempts to rescue the woman he loves **(Camilla Belle)** from an evil warlord determined to possess her.

Dylan film leads indie Spirit Awards nominees

LOS ANGELES—THE WHIMSICAL BOB Dylan narrative "I'm Not There," featuring Cate Blanchett, Richard Gere and four others playing incarnations of the enigmatic singer, led nominees Tuesday for the Spirit Awards honoring independent film.

"I'm Not There" was nominated for best feature; supporting actress for Blanchett; supporting actor for child performer Marcus Carl Franklin; and best director for Todd Haynes.

Also nominated for best film were "A Mighty Heart," "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," "Juno" and "Paranoid Park."

The Spirit Awards will be presented Feb. 23, the day before the Academy Awards.

Joining "I'm Not There" creator Haynes in the best-director field were Van Sant for "Paranoid Park," Tamara Jenkins for "The Savages," Jason Reitman for "Juno" and Julian Schnabel for "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly."

RICHARD Gere as Bob Dylan

"I'm Not There" also was chosen to receive the first-ever Robert Altman Award, given in honor of the maverick director known for sprawling ensemble casts, overlapping dialogue and other convention-breaking methods.

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G

THE KINGDOM
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
R-13

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③ HITMAN MTRCB R-13 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
② THE KINGDOM MTRCB R-13 12:00 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
④ ENCHANTED MTRCB GP 11:50 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30
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FOCUS FEATURES

Cate Blanchett plays a man, gets pregnant

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"SYDNEY LOOKS FANtastic in the background," our colleague told **Cate Blanchett** who appeared to us via satellite in Australia while we were in a hotel meeting room in LA.

"It's animated," Cate joked about the gorgeous scenery behind her.

Having finished filming "Indiana Jones 4" and "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" with **Brad Pitt**, Cate is finally settling in her role as co-artistic director of the Sydney Theatre Company. While she takes a temporary break from the movies, the actress will not be out of people's minds. With the onset of the awards season, she may earn a possible nod for her **Bob Dylan** role in "I'm Not There" (it already won her Best Actress honors in the last Venice Film Festival).

In director **Todd Haynes'** unconventional take on the life and times of Dylan, Cate, **Richard Gere, Heath Ledger, Christian Bale, Ben Wishaw** and **Marcus Carl Franklin** portray the rock icon as a series of shifting personae. Ironically, the actress, not the men, was the one who ran away with the most memorable performance.

In addition to directing plays and running the Sydney Theatre Company with her husband, **Andrew Upton**, the Oscar and Golden Globe Award winner is carrying the couple's third child, due in April next year.

The last time we spoke to you about this role in Toronto, you said your husband was deeply turned off and he didn't want to kiss you while you were playing Bob Dylan. Obviously, with your pregnancy, it has changed.

Yes, I know. Of course, he would kiss me. He just didn't think it was one of my most attractive looks. I probably have to agree with him. But he's been a little bit closer of late.

How happy are you that you are pregnant again?

I'm over the moon. It's fantastic. I've been fortunate that my pregnancies have been enjoyable. I do enjoy being pregnant. People stand up for me in public transport (laughter).

Is it true that for the Bob Dylan role, you inserted a sock in your pants to help you walk like a man?

If only it was that simple. All through my time in high school, I was always cast as a man so it was quite a relief to become a professional actor and be cast as a woman. So it feels like my career has been sidestepping my destiny. What attracted me to the project was Todd and his crazy idea of casting a woman as Bob Dylan.

I play Bob Dylan at the time when he was obviously very androgynous. Part of Todd's reasoning to cast a woman was to capture the strangeness and elusiveness of Dylan during his tour in 1965.

THE AUSSIE actress is happily pregnant again and back home in Sydney for a temporary break. Inset, Cate as Bob Dylan.

When Todd Haynes offered you the part, how did you react?

I laughed for most of the first part of the meeting... But he didn't want to give me the script before we had spoken. I now understand that because it's such a director's text. It definitely wasn't a script written for a studio executive's comprehension.

I knew I was going to have to say yes because the project was just so ambitious and unusual. Films like this just don't get made. Even when we were shooting the film, the project was constantly in threat of falling over because it was such a risky endeavor. So for Todd's vision to be realized in its entirety and that he did it without any creative compromise, that resembles profoundly Dylan's own aspirations. I couldn't have possibly said no to the role. Also, I'm a huge Todd Haynes fan right back to his student film, "Superstar: The **Karen Carpenter** Story," which was done with Barbie Dolls. He's utterly unique.

So money was not even an issue when you took the role?

This was obviously a labor of love for everybody. No one got paid anything. The film was made on a shoestring budget and everything went on the screen. Everyone had a real passion for it. That's the best way to work. It's fantastic to have been able to move between film and theater.

You certainly don't get involved in theater to make money (laughter). It's not why I went to drama school. It's not why I made "Oscar and Lucinda." I couldn't believe I was working with **Ralph Fiennes, Gill Armstrong** and **Ciaran Hinds**. In the end, it's about the dialogue with the other people. Otherwise, it's too soul-destroying if you go into it for other reasons.

Is it true that to this day, you have not met Bob Dylan?

Yes, absolutely. I don't even know if he has seen the film. I don't think Todd has met him either. It would be a strange thing to meet him. It's hard to meet people you respect so deeply. I don't know what I'd say to Bob Dylan. I'd probably drool.

I heard this famous story about **Ingmar Bergman** and **Woody Allen** desperate to meet each other. Finally, they were brought together by mutual friends in New York in a dinner for eight people. Ingmar and Woody were seated right beside each other. They didn't exchange a single word over dinner because they were both in awe of each other (laughter).

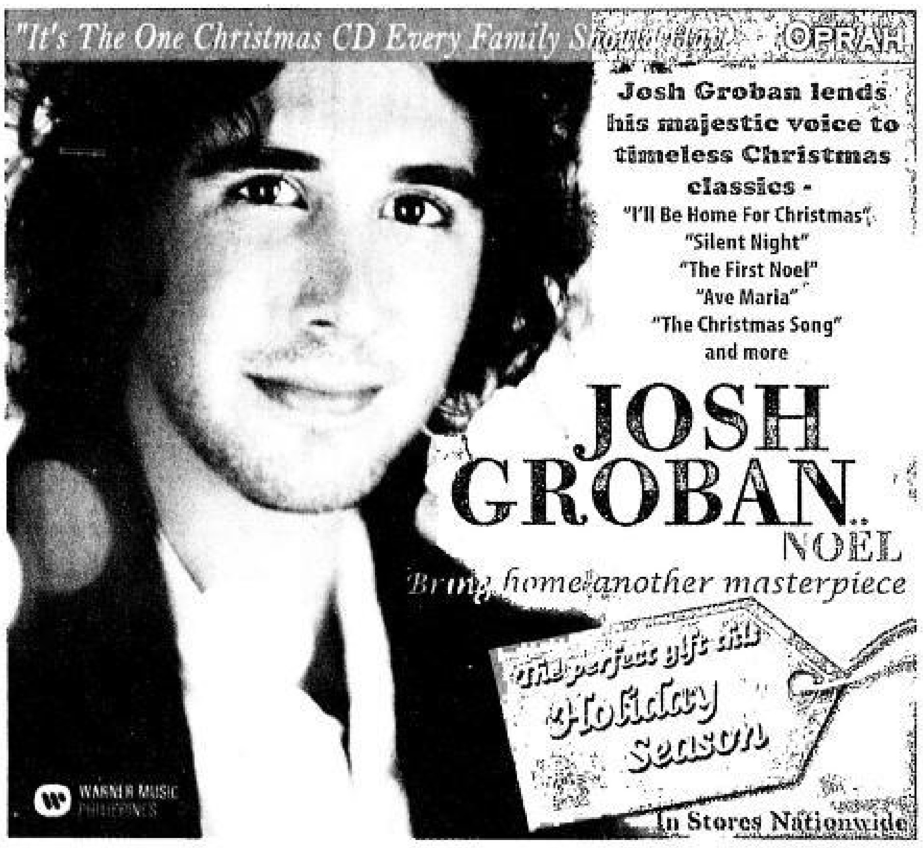
When did you first have a grasp of Dylan's music and his significance in the world?

It's interesting that because Bob Dylan is timeless, every generation seems to connect with him at the time of their own personal kind of revolution. For me, that was when I was 20 and I was at drama school. I discovered him when the world, or at least my world, was becoming a more complicated place. I really got into his music.

But in terms of him as a man and all of the stuff that has been written about him, I never connected to him. At 20, I wasn't aware of all the speculation about what motivated him and how so many people felt betrayed by him when he went electric, which is the era I was playing him in. I knew his social significance but it was interesting that people had kind of ownership of him and refused to let him or desired to arrest his development as an artist. The "electric" tour represents his moving into something new because he needed to, not because of his concern for people's expectations of him.

> In high school, I was always cast as a man so it was quite a relief to become a professional actor and be cast as a woman

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.



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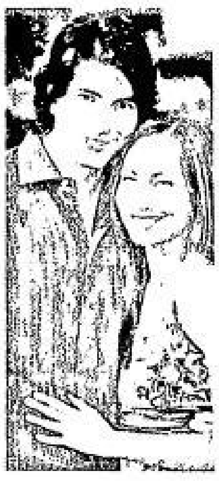


NEWLYWEDS Brandon Routh and Courtney Ford AP

Wedding bells for 'Superman'

SANTA BARBARA, California—It was a Thanksgiving weekend wedding for "Superman Returns" star Brandon Routh and actress Courtney Ford.

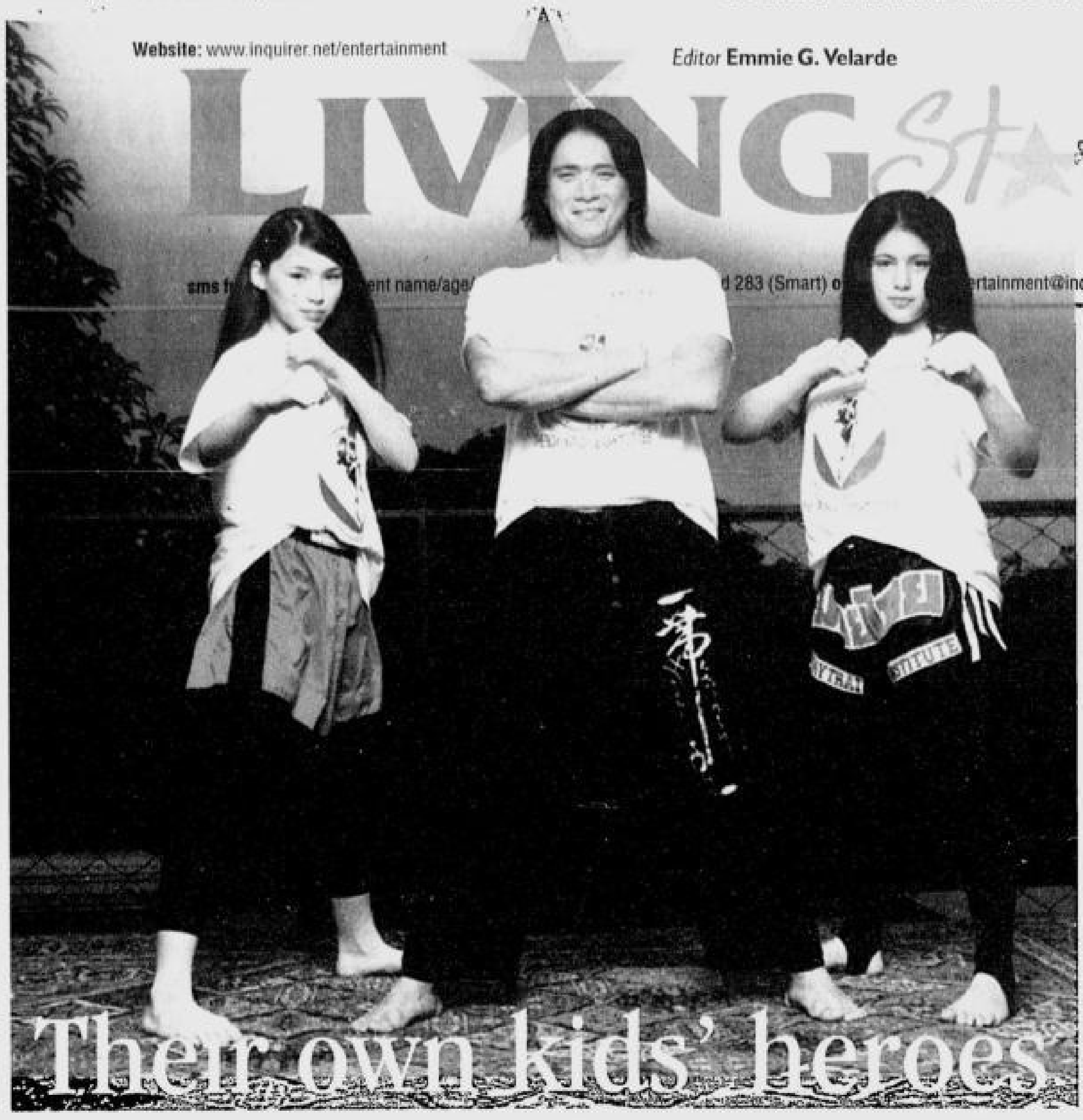
Routh, 28, married Ford, 29, on Saturday in California. The couple met four years ago, according to People magazine.

In a People interview in June, Routh called Ford his personal kryptonite, saying, "She brings me to my knees."

Ford starred in the 2004 science-fiction film "Outside." *AP*

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment
Editor Emmie G. Velarde
LIVING Stars
sms f ent name/age/ d 283 (Smart) o ertainment@inquirer.com.ph

INSIDE
Mark Bautista: City living, country boy Homebody /L6
Guess what comedian Tado Jimenez reads? Books /L5



SHOW BIZ DADS. Action star Robin Padilla, left, with daughters Kylie and Queenie, both muay thai champs. Above, Gary Valenciano with kids Paolo, Kiana and Gabriel, all music lovers.

Their own kids' heroes

CELEBRITY PHOTOGRApher Jun de Leon honors show biz dads in his newest book, "Our Father."

Specifically, show biz dads whose biggest fans are their children: multi-platinum recording artist Gary Valenciano and actor Robin Padilla.

The two are among the 62 fathers in the book, which also include Martin Nievera and Aga Muhlach. The others are national leaders (like Kris Aquino's dad Ninoy), businessmen and entrepreneurs, military men and professionals. The photographs come with poignant essays by their children.

Angel Locsin's father, Angel Colmenares, is also in the compilation by Creo Publishing.

The book comes with an audio CD containing a song performed by Martin Nievera and arranged by Louie Ocampo.

Some of the other fathers in the book are Gabby Lopez, Lauren Dyogi, Atom Henares, Butch Jimenez, Frank Alba, Butch Albert, Manny Villar, Joey Antonio, Jaime Ayala, Senen Bacani, Satur Ocampo, Ruben Bangayan, Andy Bautista, Sonny Belmonte, Eking Benedicto, Michel Lhuillier, Joey Concepcion, RC Constantino, FF Cruz, Philip Cu-Unjieng, Art de Castro, Bayani Fernando, Patxi Elizalde, and Chiz Escudero.

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UP Madrigal Singers
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Jay Cayuca
and Quartet Ensemble
Grand Atrium, 8:00 pm

DECEMBER 1
"Trumpets Christmas Sea Adventure"
Trumpets Musicademy
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

DECEMBER 2
"A Christmas Bouquet"
Effie Nañas Dancenter
Grand Atrium, 5:00 pm

DECEMBER 7
"Sing a Christmas Carol"
Poveda Children's Choir
Grand Atrium, 6:00 pm

"Amadeus"
Streetscape, 10:00 pm

DECEMBER 8
"JMM All Star Christmas at the Shang"
Jesuit Communication Foundation, Inc.
Grand Atrium, 6:00 pm

DECEMBER 9
"A Christmas Journey"
The Mandaluyong Children's Choir
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

DECEMBER 14
"Yuletide Symphony"
Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

DECEMBER 15
"Heavenly Harmonies"
Ateneo Boys Choir
Grand Atrium, 6:00 pm

DECEMBER 16
"The Voice of Christmas"
Jed Madela
Grand Atrium, 6:00 pm

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CINEMA 3 FRED CLAUS 11:45, 2:25, 5:00 7:35, 10:10 GP
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CINEMA 5 THE KINGDOM 11:45, 2:30, 5:10 7:50, 10:30 R-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

Nov 30, Dec 01, 7 & 8, 2007	" Into the Woods " musical	8:00 PM
December 14, 2007	Mark Herras	8:00 PM
December 15, 2007	The Company	8:00 PM

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December 04, 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

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MOVIE GUIDE

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SHANG CINEPLEX

1 (DOLBY) MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER
2 (DOLBY) THE KINGDOM
3 (DOLBY) HITMAN
4 (DOLBY) FRED CLAUS

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) ENCHANTED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4215

1 THE KINGDOM
2 FRED CLAUS
3 PASUKOB
4 ENCHANTED

starmall

EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7260150

3 PASUKOB
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ONE MORE CHANCE
5

metropolis star cinema

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504288, 8433994

1 FRED CLAUS
2 PASUKOB
3 HITMAN
4 BEOWULF

THEATRES

NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3035

1 GAME PLAN
2 PASUKOB
3 ONE MORE CHANCE

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ONE MORE CHANCE
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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

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2 (SDDS) ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DTS) ENCHANTED
4 GOLD (DTS) BEOWULF
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE KINGDOM
6 GOLD (SDDS) HITMAN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE KINGDOM
8 RESERVED
9 PASUKOB
10 FRED CLAUS

Blue Wave

MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niña, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) PASUKOB
2 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) ENCHANTED
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 PASUKOB

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3850

1 PASUKOB
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 PASUKOB
2 HITMAN
3 BEOWULF

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 ENCHANTED
2 BEOWULF

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) ONE MORE CHANCE
2 PASUKOB
3 (DTS ES) LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 ENCHANTED

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 PASUKOB
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

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2 (DOLBY) THE KINGDOM
3 (DOLBY) ENCHANTED
4 (DOLBY) FRED CLAUS

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 ENCHANTED
2 (DTS) ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) PASUKOB
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 PASUKOB
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 UNREST
3 (DOLBY) PASUKOB
4 (DTS) GAME PLAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) PASUKOB

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 PASUKOB

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
2 BOOGEY MAN

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (DOLBY) BOOGEY MAN - 2
2 LIPSTIK
3 SEX SCANDAL
4 (DTS) THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
2 LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
3 (DTS) ENCHANTED
4 HIGHLANDER
5 PASUKOB

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

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3 BEOWULF
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

Berma Cinema

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GALLERIA

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1 HITMAN • THX
1:40 3:40 5:40 7:40 9:40

6 ENCHANTED
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 MR. MAGORIUM's WONDER EMPORIUM
1:15 3:25 5:35 7:45 10:00

7 GAME PLAN
1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:45

3 FRED CLAUS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 ANIMAHENASYON: ANIMATION FESTIVAL
1:00 2:30 4:00 5:30 7:00

4 PASUKOB
1:15 3:25 5:35 7:45 10:00

9 ONE MORE CHANCE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 THE KINGDOM
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

10 BEOWULF
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

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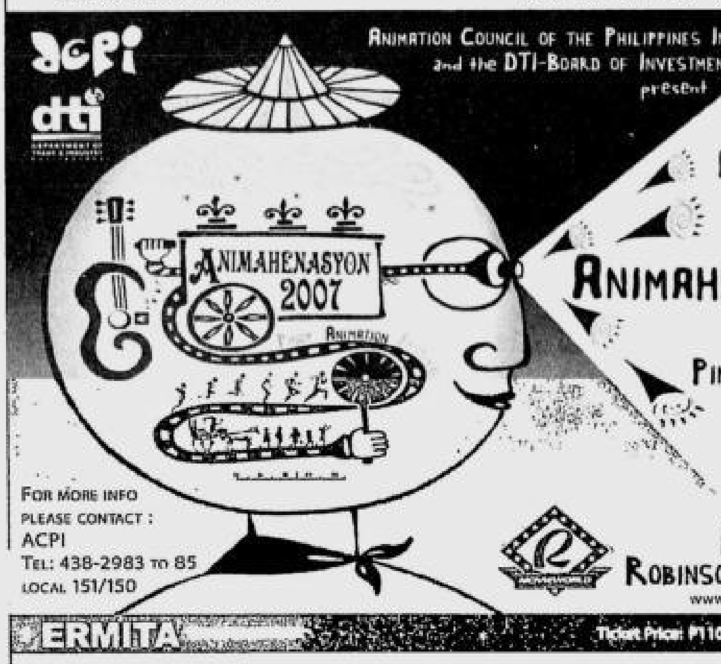
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1 PASUKOB
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 ONE MORE CHANCE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 indieSine: STILL LIFE
12:50 2:40 4:30 6:20 8:10 10:00

7 BEOWULF
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

3 BOOGEYMAN 2
12:50 2:40 4:30 6:20 8:10 10:00

4 HITMAN
12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00

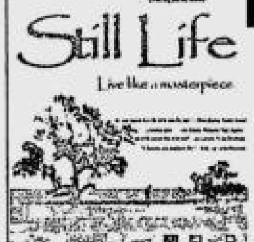
5 ENCHANTED
11:35 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

MidTown

1 FRED CLAUS
12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00

2 THE KINGDOM
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 MR. MAGORIUM's WONDER EMPORIUM
12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00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5 BEOWULF
1:05 3:35 6:20 9:00

2 PASUKOB
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

6 THE KINGDOM
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

3 ONE MORE CHANCE
10:45 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

7 HITMAN
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

4 FRED CLAUS
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

8 ENCHANTED
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

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1 THE KINGDOM
2 PASUKOB
3 ENCHANTED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 FRED CLAUS
8 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM

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2 THE KINGDOM
3 PASUKOB
4 ENCHANTED

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2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ENCHANTED
4 PASUKOB

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1 BEOWULF
2 PASUKOB
3 ENCHANTED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

DASMARIÑAS

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1 ENCHANTED
2 THE KINGDOM
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 PASUKOB
5 FRED CLAUS

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1 FRED CLAUS
2 THE KINGDOM
3 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
4 PASUKOB
5 ONE MORE CHANCE

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1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ENCHANTED
4 HITMAN

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1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 RENDITION

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1 ENCHANTED
2 HITMAN
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 PASUKOB
5 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
6 LIONS FOR LAMBS

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1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
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3 indieSine: ISNATS / BEOWULF
4 PASUKOB
5 ENCHANTED
6 RENDITION

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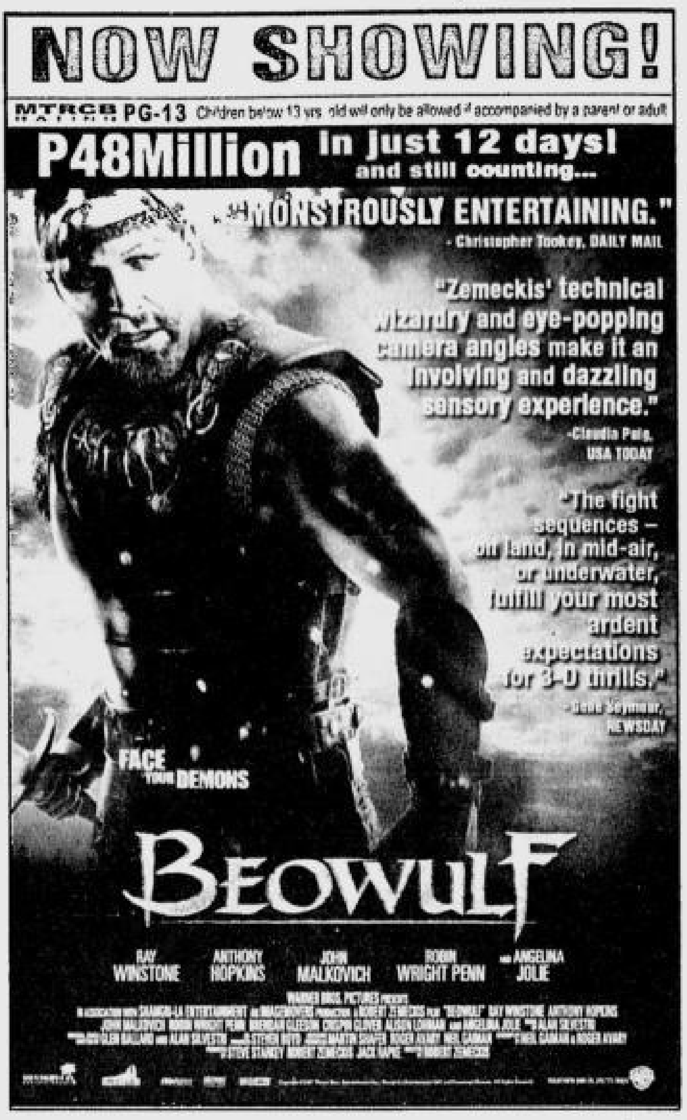
1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 PASUKOB
4 LIONS FOR LAMB
5 ENCHANTED
6 BEOWULF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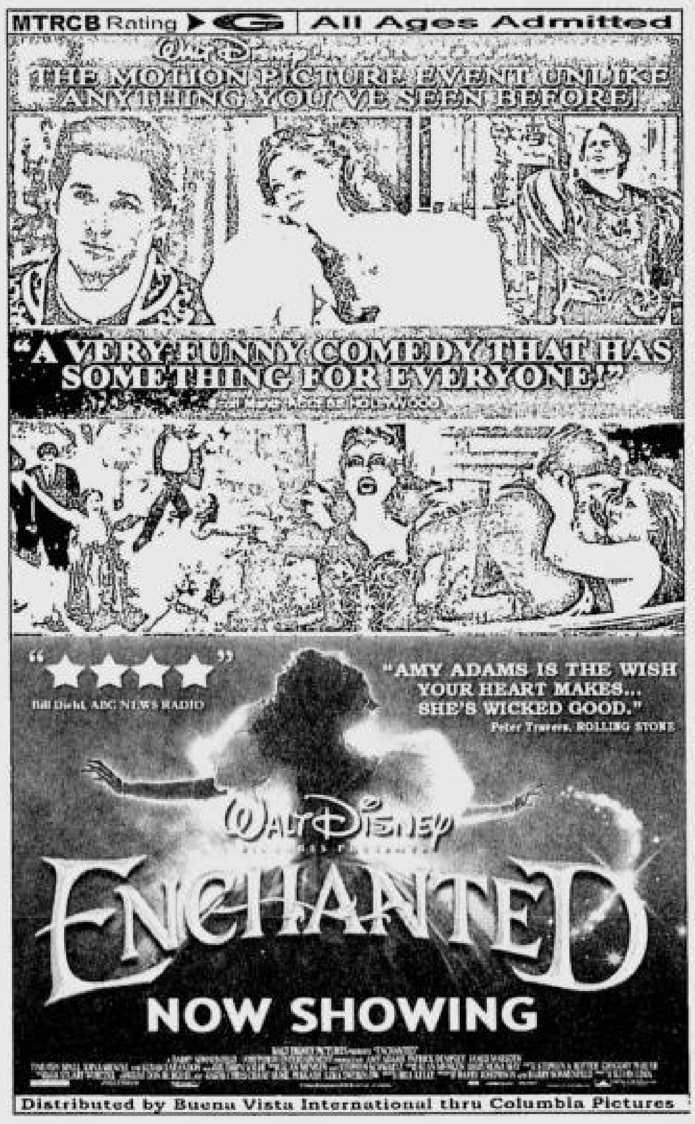
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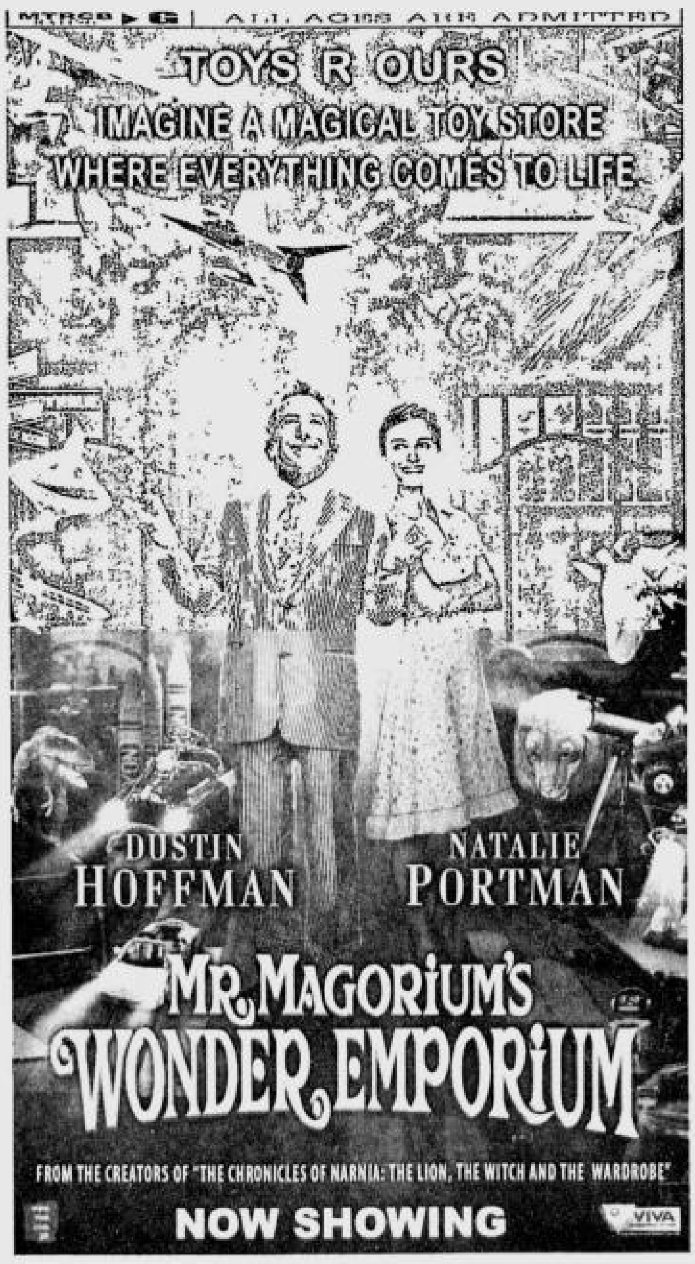
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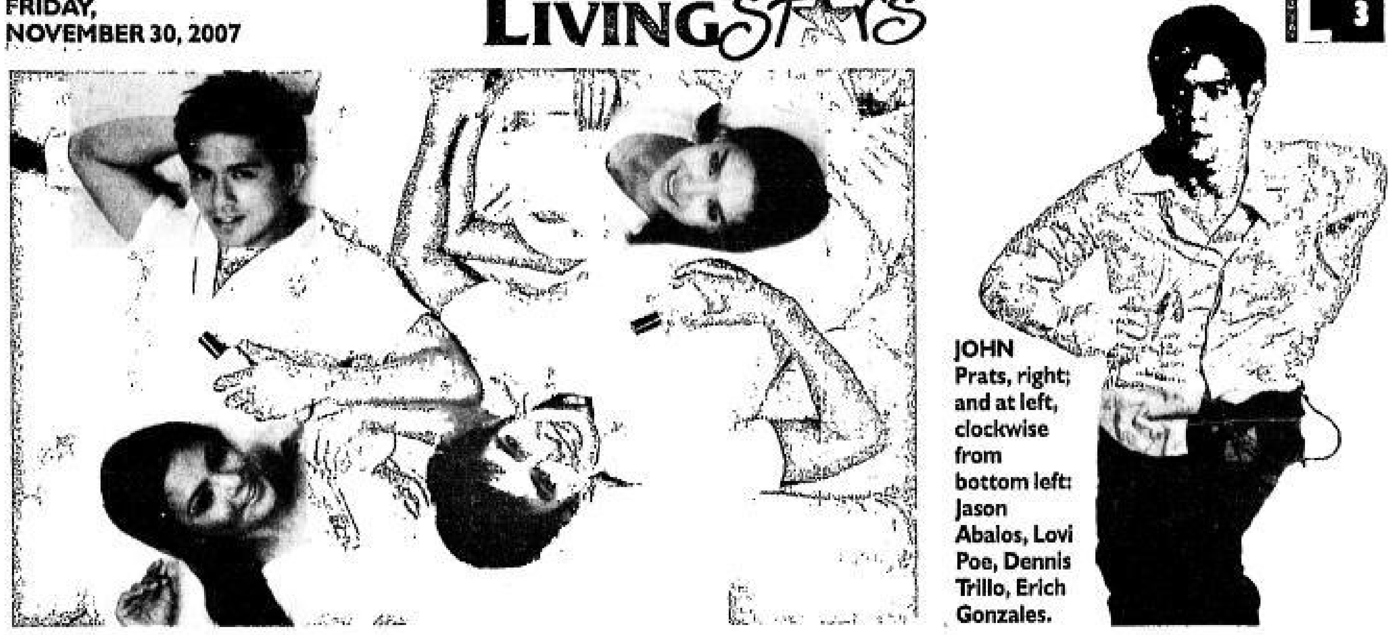

JOHN Prats, right; and at left, clockwise from bottom left: Jason Abalos, Lovi Poe, Dennis Trillo, Erich Gonzales.

Celeb scents season

FIVE YOUNG STARS have lent their names to perfume products.

The latest is John Prats, who has Scent Station's Motion as "signature fragrance."

SS founder and president Michelle Asence said John was picked for his "wholesome image, onscreen charisma and dynamism."

She described the collaboration with the youthful actor as "fruitful." She said John was "very enthusiastic," and even designed the bottle and label.

John's Motion scents are now available in major department stores.

And so is the Aficionado celebrity series endorsed by Dennis Trillo, Jason Abalos, Lovi Poe and Erich Gonzales.

The German-brand scents, which carry their image models' first names, were recently launched in an elaborate fashion event at the Palasyo de Maynila.

How Sitti proves faith in the goods

SINGER SITTI Navarro has become a franchise owner of Fruitas, a beverage cart business that sells fresh and natural fruit drinks.

She started out as its endorser.

"It helps that you believe in what you sell," she says. "My favorites are the Apple-Mango Shake and Melon Shake. These blends perk me up!"

SITTI

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FRED CLAUS G 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	ENCHANTED G 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER OF EMPORIUM G 11:30,1:40,3:50, 6:00,8:10,10:20
HITMAN R13 12:00,2:10,4:15,6:20, 8:25,10:30	BEOWULF PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	THE KINGDOM R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

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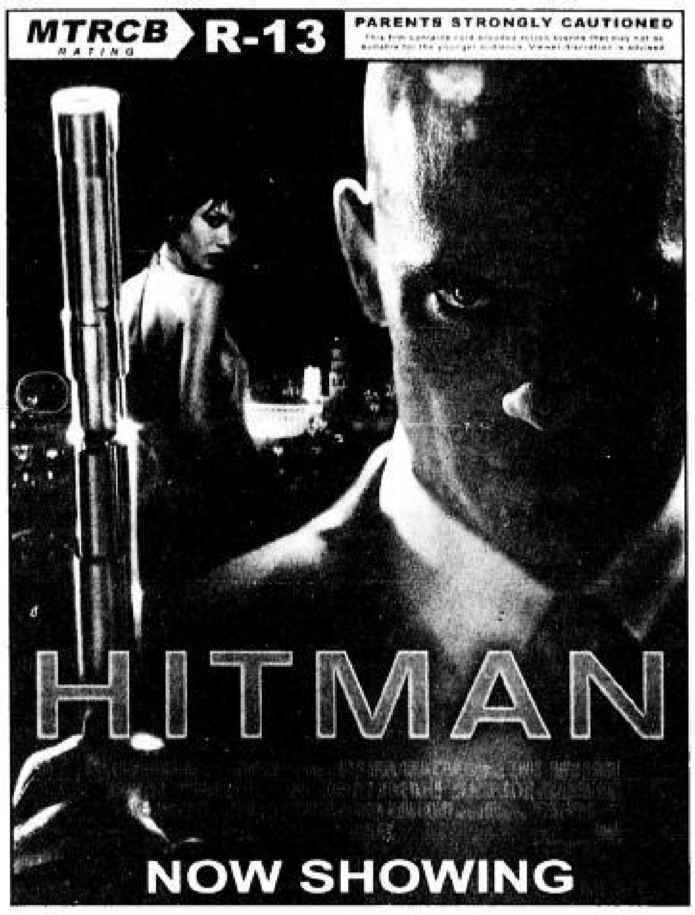

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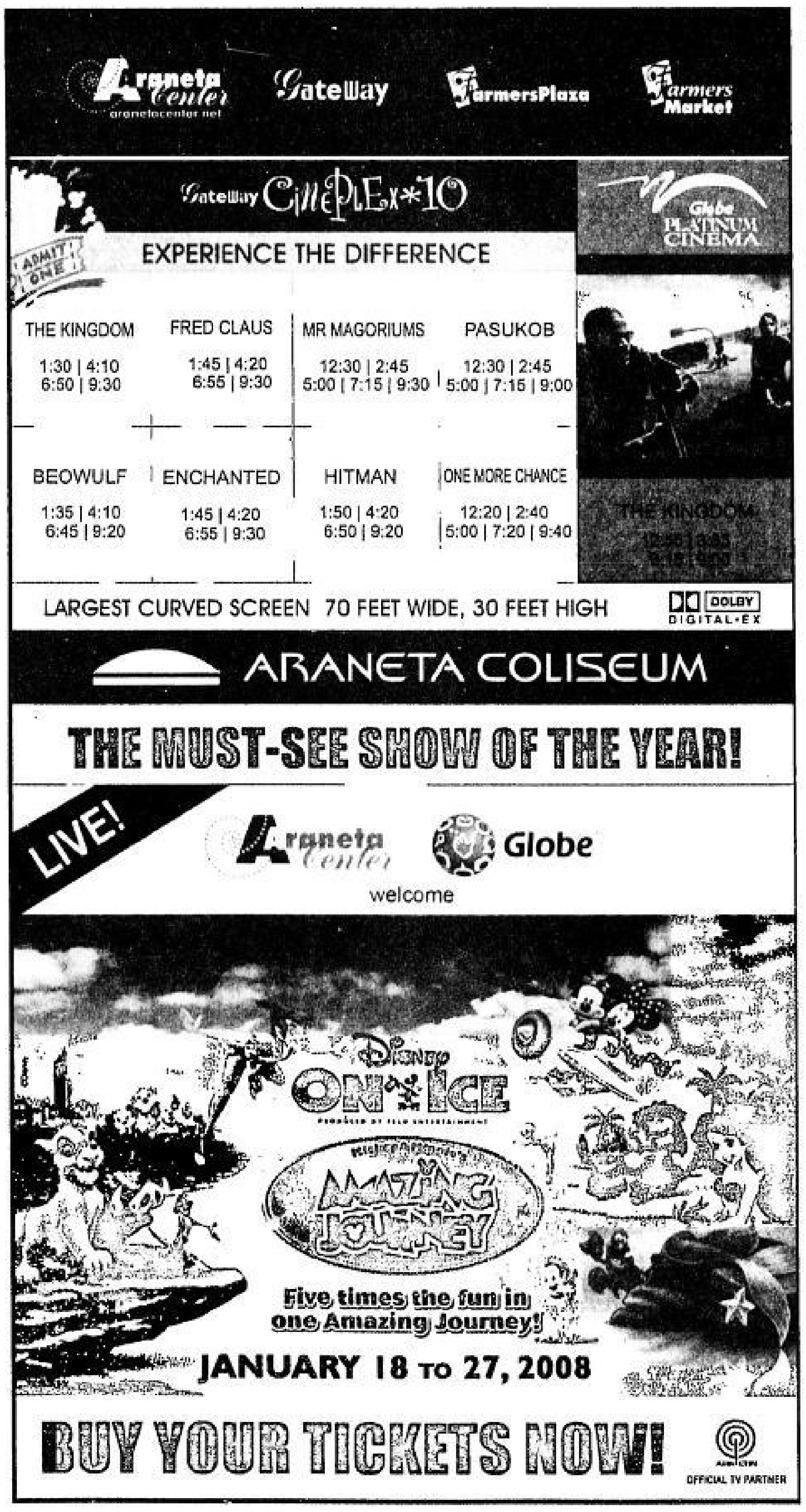

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THE KINGDOM	FRED CLAUS	MR MAGORIUMS	PASUKOB
1:30 | 4:10 6:50 | 9:30	1:45 | 4:20 6:55 | 9:30	12:30 | 2:45 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30	12:30 | 2:45 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:00
BEOWULF	ENCHANTED	HITMAN	ONE MORE CHANCE
1:35 | 4:10 6:45 | 9:20	1:45 | 4:20 6:55 | 9:30	1:50 | 4:20 6:50 | 9:20	12:20 | 2:40 5:00 | 7:20 | 9:40

Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
THE KINGDOM

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THE GOLDEN COMPASS

IS THE FILM ANTI-RELIGION?

"Not anti-religion but anti-oppression and anti-authoritarian. It's opposed to the use of theocracy for political gain".

~ Award-winning author *Philip Pullman* ("The Golden Compass") from the talk at the Oxford Literary Festival in 2007

"Pullman's portrayal of the "Church" in his book amounts to an attack on dogmatism and the use of religion to oppress, not on CHRISTIANITY itself. I proposed that THE GOLDEN COMPASS be taught as part of religious education in schools."

~ His Eminence the **Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Rowan Williams**

"The Golden Compass is not an atheistic work but a highly spiritual and reverent piece of writing. Those who attack it as an assault upon religion are mistaken."

~ The Golden Compass director *Chris Weitz* interviewed by British SFX magazine

"The basic essence of the film believes in faith and all the original Christian ideas of love and charity. It's a film against oppression. And there's nothing wrong with that. I don't want the movie apologizing."

~ *Daniel Craig* interviewed at 2007 Cannes Film Festival

"I was raised Catholic, the Catholic Church is part of my essence. I wouldn't be able to do this film if I thought it were at all anti-Catholic."

~ *Nicole Kidman* from Entertainment Weekly interview

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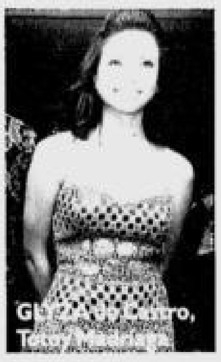

GLYZA de Castro, Totoy Madriaga

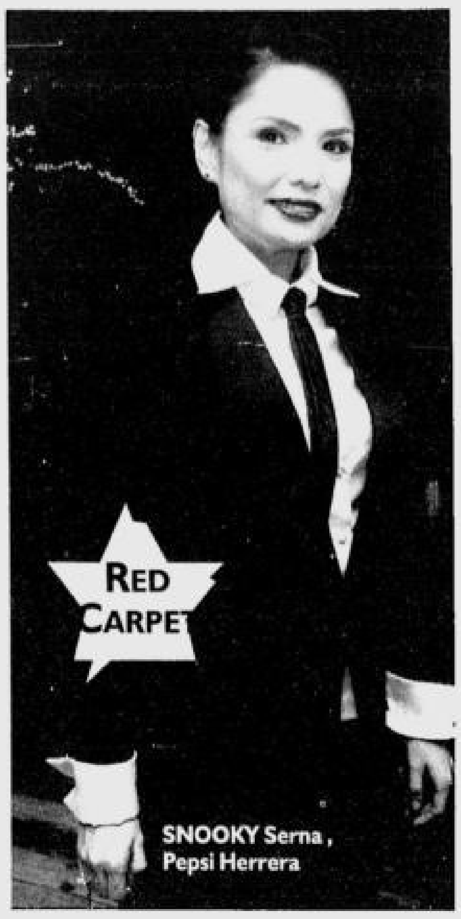
[illegible] Castillejos

YEN[illegible]

Famas Awards, at Le Pavillon on Nov. 25

MAJORITY OF THE CELEBRITIES WHO ATTENDED THE RECENT Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas) awards ceremony played it safe by slipping into understated gowns in subdued tones. But a few made heads turn, including Snooky Serna, sharp in a black tuxedo by Pepsi Herrera; and comedian Rubirubi, who strutted around in a zebra-print gown by Frederick Peralta. Living Stars gives these two a thumbs-up for defying convention.

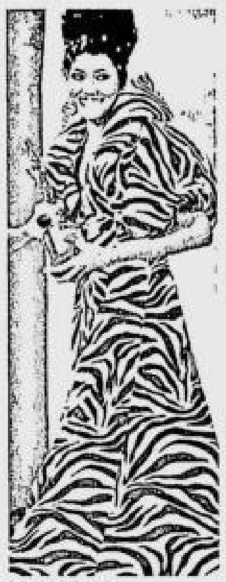
Marinel R. Cruz
PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI



SNOOKY Serna , Pepsi Herrera

JOLINA Magdangal, Larry Espinosa

JENNICA Garcia, Avel Bacudio


RUBIRUBI, Frederick Peralta

LANI Mercado, Paul Cabral

FAIT
Chris D

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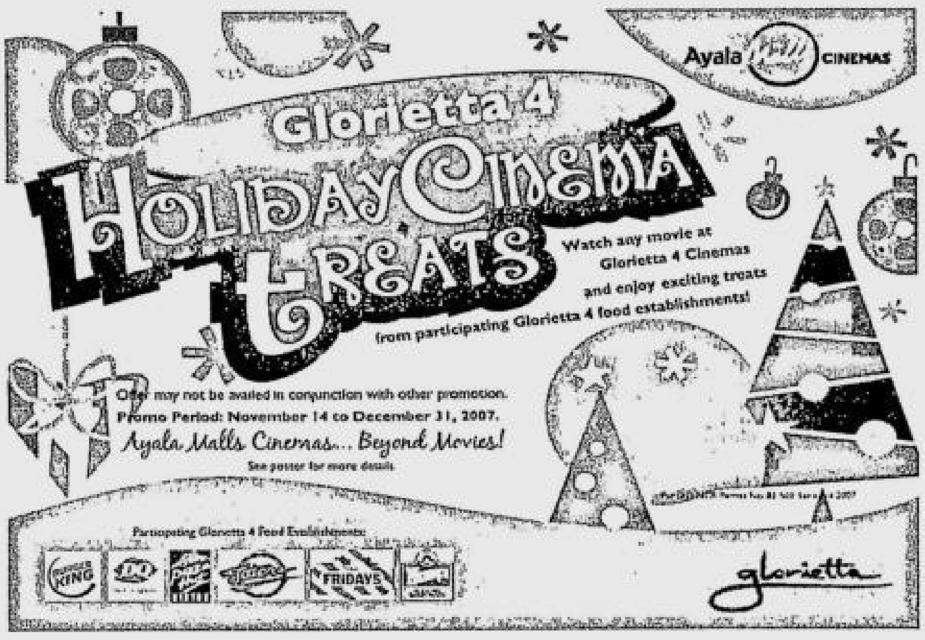
& GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
BASED ON THE NOVEL FROM THE ACCLAIMED AUTHOR OF MYSTIC RIVER
"ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF 2007
A PITCH-PERFECT CRIME THRILLER."
— Richard Roeper
CASEY AFFLECK MICHELLE MONAGHAN MORGAN FREEMAN ED HARRIS
GONE BABY GONE
EVERYONE WANTS THE TRUTH... UNTIL THEY FIND IT.
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)
glorietta GREENBELT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Glorietta 4
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See poster for more details
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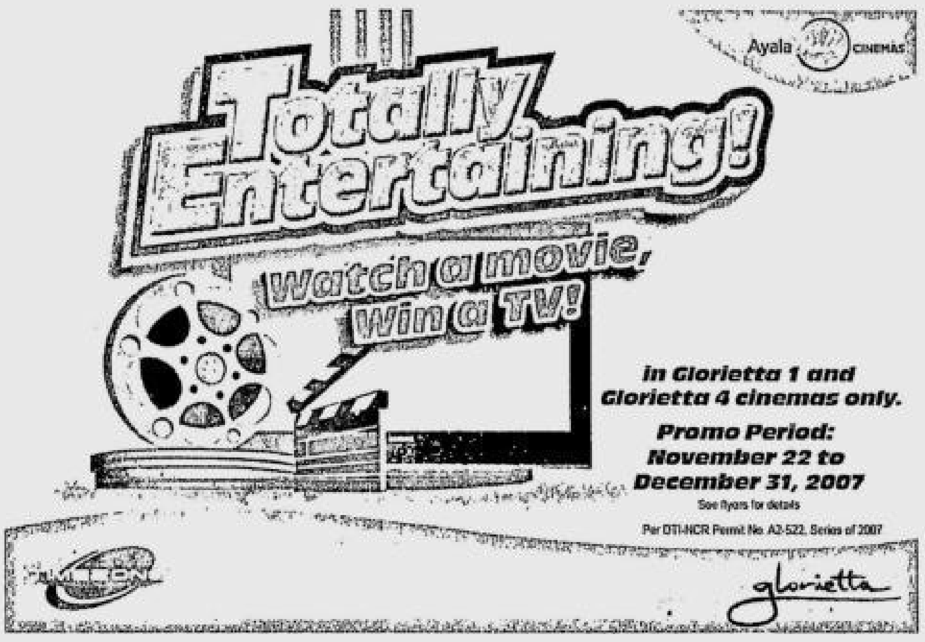
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AT THE CINEMAS

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GLORIETTA 1	1	BEOWULF	
	2	THE KINGDOM	
	3	PASUKOB	
	4	ONE MORE CHANCE	
GLORIETTA 4	1	ENCHANTED	
	2	HITMAN	
	3 THX	THE KINGDOM	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	THE NAMESAKE	
	5	FRED CLAUS	
	6	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM	
	7	ONE MORE CHANCE	
GREENBELT 1	1	PASUKOB	
	2	THE KINGDOM	
GREENBELT 3	1 THX	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM	GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	THE KINGDOM	GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	THE NAMESAKE	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	FRED CLAUS	GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	ENCHANTED	GUARANTEED SEATS
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	THE KINGDOM	
	2	FRED CLAUS	
	3	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM	
	4	PASUKOB	
	5	ENCHANTED	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	THE KINGDOM	
	2	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM	
	3	ENCHANTED	
	4	HITMAN / LIONS FOR LAMBS	
MARKET! MARKET!	1	PASUKOB	
	2	FRED CLAUS	
	3	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM	
	4	THE KINGDOM	
	5	ONE MORE CHANCE	
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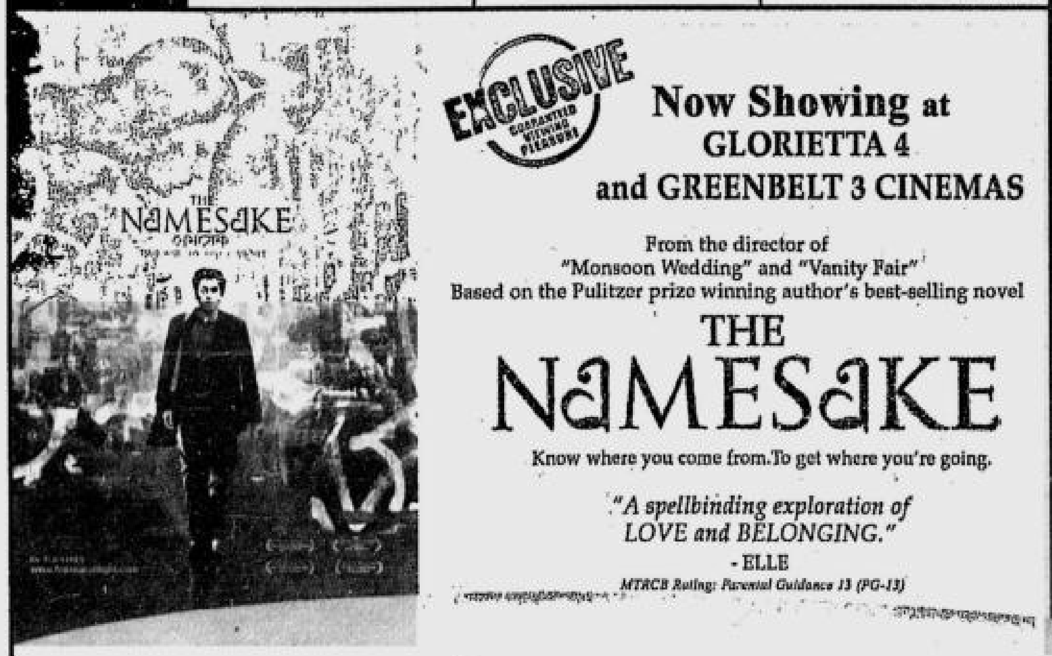
	2	ONE MORE CHANCE	
	3	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	FRED CLAUS	GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	HITMAN	
	6	ENCHANTED	
	7 THX	THE KINGDOM	GUARANTEED SEATS

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	DOUBLE MIDNIGHT MADNESS SALE November 30 to December 2
GREENBELT	Bossa Christmas with Guarana and The Company November 30; 8pm; Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	World Vision Concert with Nikki Gil and British School Manila December 2; 6pm; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Seussical the Musical December 7 to 9; 11:30am, 3pm and 6pm; Onstage Cinema 1
MARKET! MARKET!	All For Kids Toy Fair November 26 to 29; Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents FIDDLER ON THE ROOF November 9 - December 16, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	WATER: THE MEDIUM by Juvenal Sanso November 24 to January 13, 2008; Ground Floor Gallery For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks December 9; 6pm; Activity Center Rhythm Academy: Pops Fernandez and The UP Cherubim and Seraphim December 16; 6pm; Activity Center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"A spellbinding exploration of
LOVE and BELONGING."
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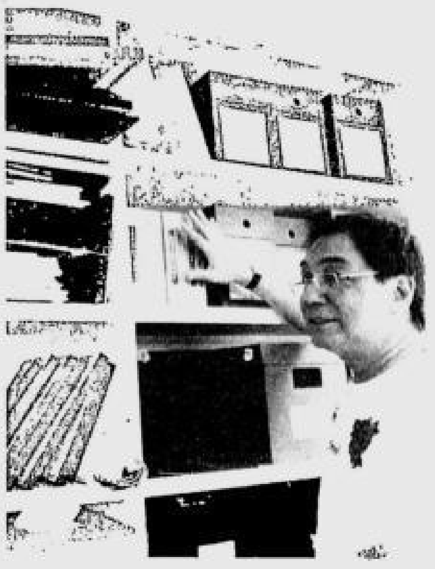


JOEY DE LEON

I COLLECT A LOT OF STUFF. I STORE them mostly in this extra room on the second floor. Things may look topsy-turvy here, but ask me where each and every item is and I'll show you. The lanai area used to be a favorite spot, because that was where I did my paintings.

Marinel R. Cruz
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

Star exhibitors in charity bazaar

STARS FOR OTHERS

MYLENE DIZON AND ERIKA FIFE ARE among the celebrity exhibitors at the annual Wack Wack Yuletide Blessings Bazaar, from tomorrow until Sunday.

Now in its third year, the event is held at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Some 150 booths will sell bedroom linen, houseware, personal care and aromatherapy products, original and branded clothes and accessories, bags and footwear, stationery and office items, toys and games merchandise, personalized items, and food.

The organizers have announced that there will be credit card facilities, plus free coffee at the poolside. Part of the proceeds goes to selected NGOs. Entrance is free.

MYLENE Dizon

* * *

Pro-women

UNITED NATIONS—The United Nations women's agency launched a campaign on Monday backed by actress Nicole Kidman to gather signatures on an Internet petition rejecting violence against women and urging action to stop it. The launch of the petition titled "Say NO to violence against women" (www.saynotoviolence.org), is part of a 16-day UN-backed drive to raise awareness about the issue and urge governments to act on it.

Reuters

SUPPORTING WRITERS ACTRESS Kristin Davis explains the intricacies of a labor strike to NYU students following a rally for the striking Writers Guild of America in New York. REUTERS

WHERE CHARITY BEGINS
ROCK STAR Jon Bon Jovi, left, stands next to first-time homeowner Marion Rogers as she gives him a tour of her residence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Bon Jovi turned up at the recent event for the group Project Home, to which he donated $450,000 to help revitalize a block of houses designed to provide 15 affordable, quality homes to first-time home buyers. REUTERS

MAXENE MAGALONA

I LOVE THE "HARRY POTTER" BOOKS BY J.K. Rowling and the "Gossip Girl" series by Cecily von Ziegesar, as well as novels by Nicholas Sparks. My mom Pia bought the Harry Potter books long before they became popular. When we read the first three installments, my sisters and I instantly got hooked. It's for people of all ages who still believe in magic. I consider "The Wedding" by Sparks as my all-time favorite. It's because I'm a hopeless romantic. Lastly, I enjoy reading the "Gossip Girl" books because I can relate to the heroines. I also love making *chika* (gossiping) with my girl friends and following fashion trends.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY RUDY ESPERAS

KAREN DAVILA

I DON'T LIKE FICTION THAT MUCH. I LOVE INSPIRAtional books more. I feel they help me become a better person.

My favorite authors are Eckhart Tolle ("The Power of Now") and Don Miguel Ruiz ("Wisdom from the Four Agreements"). "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne is also very nice.

I also like biographies. One of my role models is Hillary Clinton. In spite of everything she's been through—a philandering husband, scandals during her stint as US First Lady—she remains a beacon of strength in a man's world.

Marinel R. Cruz
PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

pedagogy of the oppressed

TADO JIMENEZ

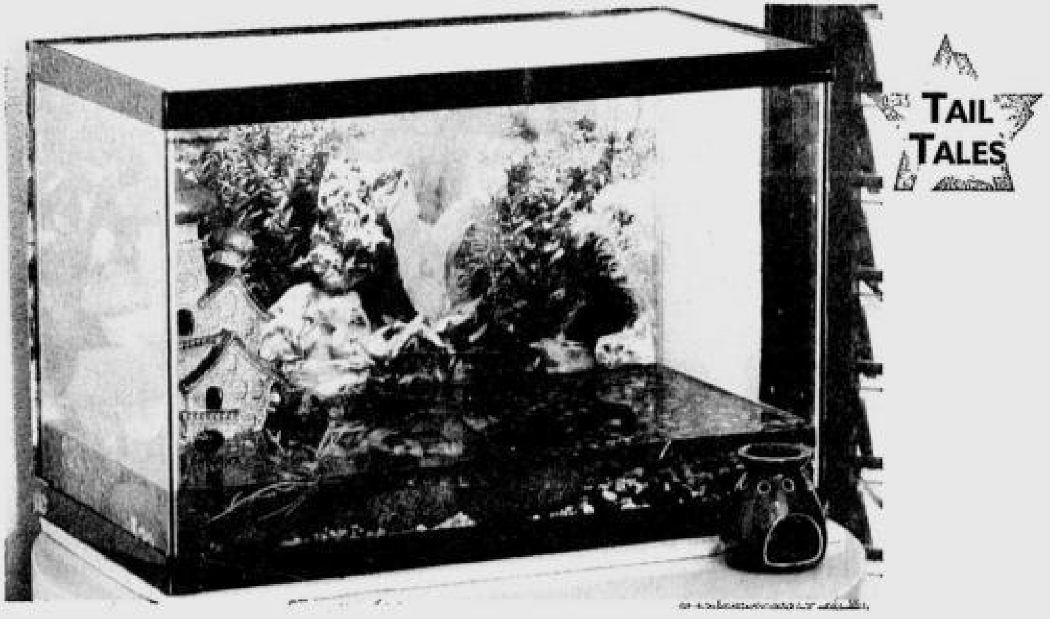
PAULO FREIRE'S "PEDAGOGY of the Oppressed" changed my life. It's about the conflict between the ruling and working classes. It was introduced to me by a friend, a fellow activist. He was from UP (University of the Philippines), and I was from PUP (Polytechnic University of the Philippines) taking up Child Psychology. He gave me this book to open my eyes. Its ideas have yet to be debunked. Its analysis of society has hit the nail on the head.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

JEN ROSENDAHL

I NAMED MY TURTLE GUILLERMO. HE'S SO CUTE! I GOT him for only P150. There was a sale in Bioresearch (pet store) then. He came in a small plastic aquarium and, as bonus, with a bottle of turtle food flakes and some rocks. His old home looked nice, though. Guillermo has been with me for the past two years. When I first got him, he was just as small as a tomato. So tiny. Now, he's as big as my hand. That was why I had to buy a bigger aquarium for him.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



'Dee's Day' with Towns awardees

THE OUTSTANDING Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) awardees, women who have been cited for exceptional service to society, were the featured guests yesterday on "Dee's Day," on RPN 9. Shown here (from left) with program host Deedee Siytangco are awardees Dina S. Ocampo, Education; Eva Maria Cutiongco-Dela Paz, Medicine; Alyssa Peleo-Alampay, Science; Catherine Vistro-Yu, Education; Dr. Imelda G. Villar, Towns president; Dr. Racquel Fortun, 2004 awardee, Medicine; and Nicky Torres of Metrobank Foundation. Not in photo are awardees Maria Ressa, Broadcast Journalism; Alexandra P. Romualdez, Print Journalism; Elizabeth H. Lee, Business; Hilly Ann Maria Roa-Quiaoit, Science; Glecy Cruz Atienza, Arts and Culture; and Maria Corazon de Ungria, Science.

HOME BODY

MARK hangs out [illegible] garden that has a small fountain.

SINGER designed this unique door.

Mark Bautista finds perfect balance between modernity and rustic tranquility in this house that he helped design

City living, country boy

MINUTES away from ABS-CBN, the house is in a quiet neighborhood.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

BEFORE JOINING THE TALENT search "Star for a Night" five years ago, singer Mark Bautista was a third-year Architecture student at the Cagayan de Oro College and Engineering School.

Although he quit school when show biz beckoned, his background came in handy when it was time to build his dream home in Quezon City.

When the interior designers from IBA Design Group submitted their concepts, Mark was able to put in his two cents' worth.

"I designed the spiral staircase," he recounts. "Originally, the motif was ocean waves. But I suggested circles [as design pattern] on the railings since that corner is semi-circular."

From a slew of shades that the designers presented, Mark chose olive green for the accent wall.

Collaborating with the design group was a breeze because the main designer, Ida Inocencio-de los Reyes, is also a backup singer on ABS-CBN's Sunday noontime show "ASAP," where Mark is a mainstay.

"They also had to change the door. I wanted something more modern," he notes.

Ultra-modish, with Asian touch

In a nutshell, Mark envisions his pad as ultra-modish, yet minimalist, with a distinct Asian touch evident in the Zen fabric lamps and L-shaped leather sofa.

Although he got the couch from a mall, the center table is from Mindanao.

"It's actually a wooden chest, a gift from Gov. Imelda Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte," he relates. "She gave it to me when Sarah Geronimo and I had a show in her province."

It is not uncommon for Mark as a Viva recording artist to receive all sorts of gifts from friends and fans when he does shows here and abroad.

Matryoshka dolls from Russia and an exotic décor from Bali, presents from fans, are displayed in the living room.

US-based Pinoys have also gifted him with Oakley shades, a Sony PlayStation Portable and a Nintendo Wii unit.

When he's free from show biz commitments, he usually tinkers with the computer, plays video games with his brothers, whips up home-cooked meals or watches concerts of foreign artists on DVD.

Georgina Baluyut, Ida's co-designer, says that Mark conceptualized his bed's brown padded leather headboard.

"The headboard features hidden book compartments," says Georgina. "He wants his room to look modern and Asian-inspired at the same time."

Mark the budding designer also indulges in a longtime passion, painting, at home.

Several of his oil and pastel art works are displayed in his bedroom, where he also set up a telescope he had bought in Chicago.

He admits that he's fond of bringing home souvenirs from his numerous concert tours abroad, which have taken him to places as far as Switzerland and Alaska.

Mark was also insistent about building a pocket garden. "When my house was featured on 'At Home Ka Dito,' I requested for an Oriental-style garden with a fountain.

Since his two-story, three-room home stands in a tranquil neighborhood, he often feels as if he's back in Mindanao.

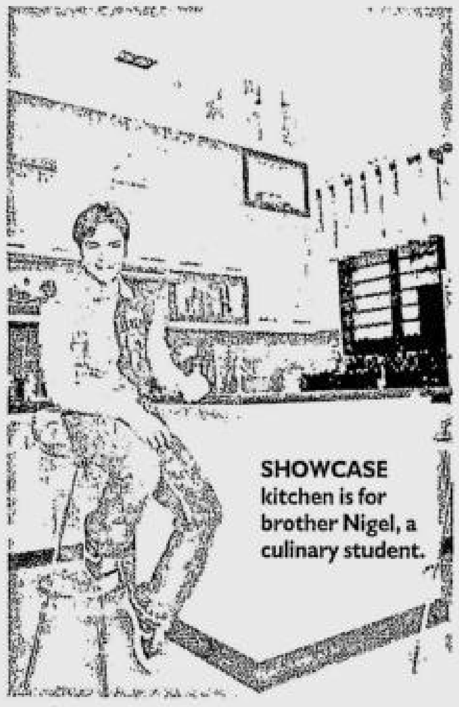
It's like having the best of best worlds, he explains.

When he started earning well, he had the family home in Cagayan de Oro renovated.

"That's where my family lives, but they stay here whenever they're in town. They flew in to watch my 'Simply Irresistible' concert at the Aliw Theater."

Mark owns up that he's currently torn between city and provincial living.

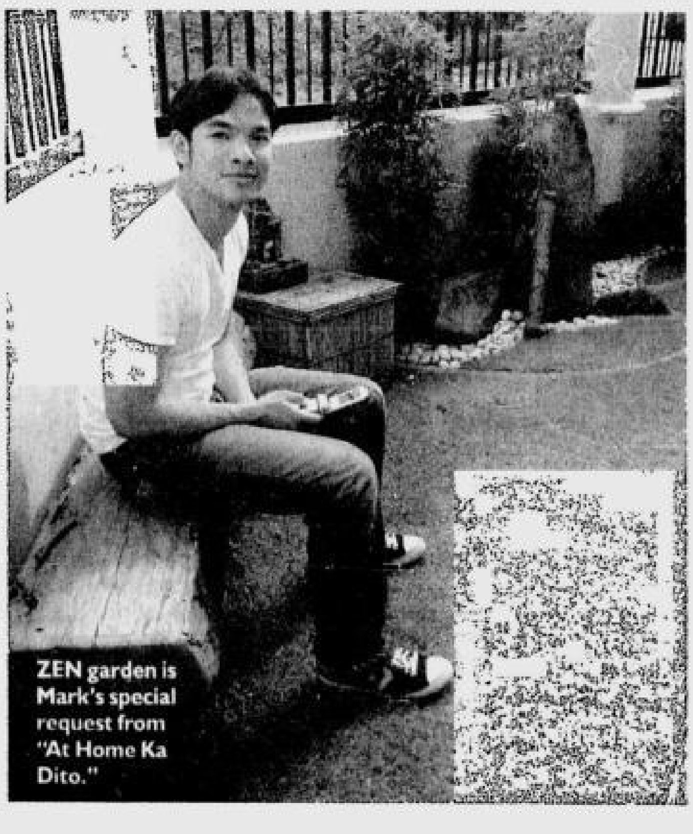
"Actually, I hope to settle down and retire in Cagayan de Oro someday. But my work is in Manila. Good thing that I found this city home in a quiet subdivision. It's like being in the province so I feel right at home, too."



SHOWCASE kitchen is for brother Nigel, a culinary student.

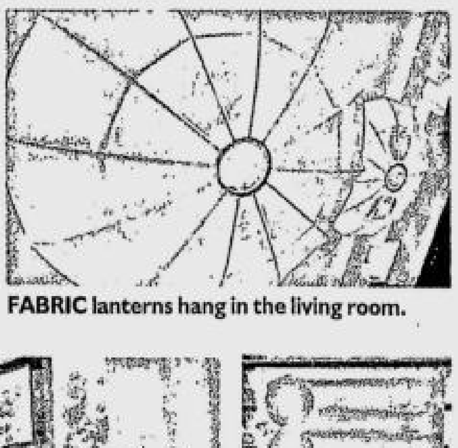
HE FOUND this dining set in a mall. "I liked its simplicity."

SPIRAL staircase is also a concept of Mark, a student of Architecture.

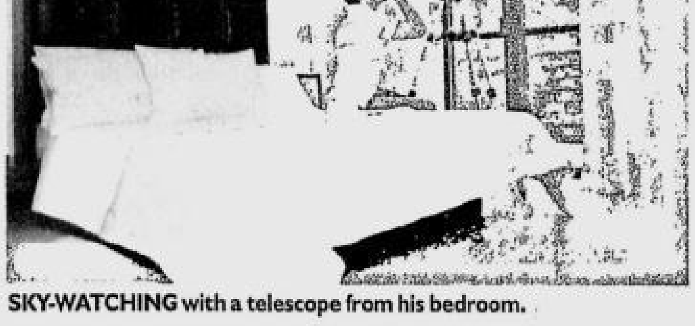


ZEN garden is Mark's special request from "At Home Ka Dito."

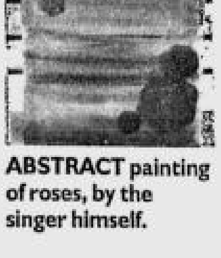
BALI décor and Matryoshka dolls are presents from fans.



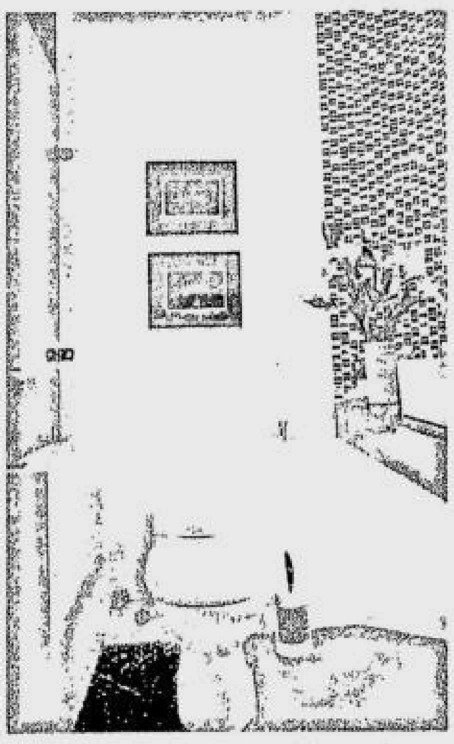
FABRIC lanterns hang in the living room.



SKY-WATCHING with a telescope from his bedroom.



ABSTRACT painting of roses, by the singer himself.



MODISH bathroom features Bisazza tiles from Italy on the rightside wall.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2007

Republic of the Philippines
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National Capital Region
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cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
CI YOO CONSTRUCTION 12 San Manuel St., Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City	Cieur Yoo Korean	General Manager
KING OCEAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING 109 N.S. Amoranto Ave., Maharlika, Quezon City	Kevin Kao Guinean	Assistant Manager
TUEM INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER CORP. 3/F Wasmiya Bldg., 967 Maligaya St., Malate, Manila	Chungyong Lee Korean	Marketing Manager
SUNNY VALE CORP. Unit 609 282, Dona Hanerosa Bldg., Edsa Extension, Pasay City	Hye Hee Kim Korean	Operation Manager
DHK GLOBAL NETWORK SERVICE INC. UG-10 Globe Telecom Plaza I, Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City	Choun Weon Kang Korean	President
GENIC SALON Unit 110 G/F Adriatico Square, 1607 Adriatico St., Malate, Manila	Hyeok Hwang Korean	General Manager
FIRST KITCHEN HOUSEHOLD INTERNATIONAL TRADING 197-C P. Sevilla St., Grace Park, Caloocan City	Huibin Cai Chinese	Interpreter
SEINTRADE CORPORATION Unit A 2/F Rafael Bldg., Guerrero cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Kyungmin Kim Korean	Operation Manager
ALL SUPPORT JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL 532 UN Ave. cor. Bocobo St., Square Garden Bldg., Ermita, Manila	Nobuaki Hori Japanese	Teacher
PHILLOGISTIC CORPORATION 2428 Tejeron St., Sta. Ana, Manila	Kyung Tak Kang Korean	President & CEO
ENPI EVERGREEN INC. Unit 2102-03 One San Miguel Bldg., San Miguel Ave. cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City	Clement Ko Hian Chai Malaysian	Operations Manager
MAKATI SHANGRI-LA MANILA Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Karl Heinz Krautler Austrian	Executive Chef
MAKATI SHANGRI-LA MANILA Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Mehmet Sinan Yilmaz Turkish	Hotel Manager
FIRST ADVANTAGE PHILIPPINES, INC. 10/F Paragon Corporate Center, Industry St., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Guy Anthony Cary New Zealand	Managing Director-East
ITALIAN MARITIME ACADEMY PHILS. INC. 6/F NEDA sa Makati Bldg., 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City	Nicolo Terrei Italian	General Manager
PHIL. HAUZEN CORPORATION 2822 Core Town Bldg., P. Celle St. cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City	Xiaohui Li Korean	Marketing Assistant

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI–November 30, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
Ilagan
Office of the Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela, through its Bids and Awards Committee, is inviting interested distributors, wholesalers and/or suppliers, to apply for eligibility *and to participate in the sealed competitive bidding for the following:*

PROJECT REFERENCE	ABC	BIDDING FEE
A. Procurement of Drugs & Medicines	*P 19,436,874.50*	*P19,000.00*
B. Medical/Surgical/Dental/Laboratory/X-ray Supplies	*P 8,850,000.00*	*P 8,000.00*
C. Procurement of Veterinary Supplies and Feeds	*P 500,000.00*	*P 500.00*
D. Procurement of One (1) unit Digital Duplicating Machine	*P 450,000.00*	*P 450.00*

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

Bidding Activities	*A) Procurement of Drugs & Meds and Med. Supplies*	*B) Procurement of Vet. Supplies and Feeds C) Digital Duplicating Machine*
Availability of Bid Documents	*Dec. 10-11, 2007 at the BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol Bldg., Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela*	*Dec. 5-7, 2007 at the BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol Bldg., Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela*
Pre-Bid Conference	*December 14, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office Mini Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela*	*December 12, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office Mini Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela*
Deadline of submission of eligibility Documents	*December 28, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office Mini Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela*	*December 27, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office Mini Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela*
Opening of Bids	*December 28, 2007, 10:30 a.m. at the Governor's Office Mini Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela*	*December 27, 2007, 10:30 a.m. at the Governor's Office Mini Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela*

Complete set of bid proposal/s forms may be acquired from the BAC Secretariat's Office Capitol Ilagan, Isabela upon payment of non-refundable bidding fee stated above at the Provincial Treasurer's Office

The Provincial Government of Isabela reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal has been evaluated by the BAC as the most advantageous to the Provincial Government as well as the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the Provincial Government assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in this undertaking nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) MA. THERESA ARANETA-FLORES
BAC-Chairperson

(PDI – Nov. 30, 2007)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Room 507-508, 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
http://www.deped.gov.ph, deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com
Direct Line: 636-65-43 / Telefax 636-65-42 Trunk Line: 632-13-61 Locals: 2085/2115

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for printing, delivery, and retrieval and warehousing of test booklets and non-classified materials for various testing Projects of NETRC for the 1st Quarter of 2008.

Package	Item	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) per Package (PhP	Bid Submission deadline/ Opening of Bids	Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable)	End user
1	Printing, Packaging, Labeling and Warehousing of Test Booklets for the National Achievement Test (NAT) with Reading Test in English and Filipino for Grade 3	11,610,182.43	December 20, 2007 10:00 a.m. Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Bldg., Meralco Ave., Pasig City	5,000.00	NETRC
2	Printing, Packaging, Labeling and Warehousing of Test Booklets for the National Achievement Test (NAT) for Grade 6	10,577,972.97			
3	Printing, Packaging, Labeling and Warehousing of Test Booklets for the National Achievement Test (NAT) for Year II	18,326,019.32			
4	Printing of Non-Classified Materials for the National Achievement Test 2008 & Reading Test for Grade 3	2,200,000.00			
5	Delivery & Retrieval of Test Booklets, Answer Sheets & Non-Classified Materials for NAT 2008 & Reading Test for Grade 3	9,782,500.00			

Bids received that exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected. A bidder may bid for any or all packages. A pre-bid conference shall be held on **December 6, 2007, 10:00 a.m.** at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Meralco Ave., Pasig City. Bidders may submit bids before **December 20, 2007** during office hours to the BAC Chairperson through the BAC Secretariat at the address indicated in the next paragraph. Late bids shall be rejected.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting **November 29, 2007** upon payment of a non-refundable fee indicated above.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph** or **www.procurementservice.org** or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-42/43 or fax no. 633-93-43.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **TEODOSIO C. SANGIL, JR.**
Undersecretary and BAC I Chairperson

(PDI–November 30, 2007)

Office of the President of the Philippines
PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT STAFF
Malacañang

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Office of the President-Presidential Management Staff, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites the following contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the negotiated procurement of the hereunder project:

- (a) Advance Gem's Fire corporation;
- (b) Atlantica Fire Safety Systems, Inc.;
- (c) Les Blores Enterprise;
- (d) Swordsman & Company Incorporated;
- (e) Simn Corporation;
- (f) High Quality Firepro, Inc.;
- (g) Magnaye Electrical and Mechanical Services;
- (h) Buenaconce Construction Inc.; and
- (i) Palmer-Asia, Inc.

Name of Project – **Rehabilitation of the PMS Building Fire Sprinkler System**
Location – PMS Building Arlegui St., San Miguel Manila
Brief Description – The Contractor shall furnish, deliver all equipment, machinery, parts, materials and supplies, labor, supervision and all necessary services to complete the operation of the PMS fire sprinkler system
Approved Budget For the Contract – Five-Million Fifty Eight Thousand Pesos (P 5,058,000.00)
Source of Funding – Funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007
Contract Duration – One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days

Prospective bidders should posses a valid Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. They should also have their Income Tax Returns (ITRs) duly filed through the Bureau of Internal Revenue's Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS) for FYs 2005 and 2006, in accordance with Executive Order No. 398, series of 2005, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall also be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	28 November-04 December 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	28 November-04 December 2007
3. Submission of eligibility requirements	11 December 2007
4. Results of eligibility check	11 December 2007
5. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	11 December 2007
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	13 December 2007
7. Pre-bid Conference	17 December 2007 (2:00 PM)
8. Receipt and Opening of Bids	27 December 2007 (1:00 PM)

A complete set of Eligibility Forms may be purchased from the address and contact numbers below, upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) and payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred (Php 500.00) to the PMS Cashier.

Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
4/F PMS Building, Arlegui Street
San Miguel, Manila
Contact Nos.: 734-3971 to 86 local 162; 734-2192 (TF)

Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility requirements and obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by BAC at the above address. Bidding Documents will be issued only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00) to the PMS Cashier.

The PMS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any minor defects therein, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to accept only the offer that is most advantageous to the government.

The PMS assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids

(Sgd.) ASSEC. ELIZABETH M. GONZALES
Chairperson, PMS-BAC

Manila, 26 November 2007

(PDI--Nov. 30, 2007)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the GHQ Bids and Awards Committee II, invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project/s, chargeable against Capital Outlay Fund CY-2007:

Nomenclature/ Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission / Opening of Bids	
PROCUREMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES (PB-GHQBACII-AFPBAC-160-07)	P 8,137,000.00	December 6, 2007 9:00 AM (Thursday) Venue: OJ6 Executive Theater, 2nd Floor Bulwagang Syquio, CGEA Quezon City	December 18 2007 9:00 AM (Tuesday) Venue: OJ6 Executive Theater, 2nd Floor Bulwagang Syquio, CGEA Quezon City	P 3,000.00

Office of the GHQ Bids and Awards Committee II Secretariat
3/F Bulwagang Syquio, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo,
Quezon City
Contact Person : *LCDR PABLO O. FUENTEBELLA JR PN*
Tel. Nr. 911-6001 Loc 6485 / Cel # 09192534534
Fax Nr.: 911-6001 Loc 6485

(PDI – November 30, 2007)

AN ARCHITECTURAL COMPANY IS SEEKING FOR:

(5) **SENIOR ARCHITECTS**
- PROFICIENT IN AUTOCADD AND DETAILED DESIGN DRAWINGS.
- MINIMUM 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE.

(8) **JUNIOR ARCHITECTS**
- PROFICIENT IN AUTOCADD.
- EXPERIENCED IN WORKING DRAWINGS.
- MINIMUM 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE.

(3) **3D VISUALIZERS**
- ARCHITECT, EXPERIENCED IN ANIMATION AND STILL IMAGE RENDERINGS.
- PROFICIENT IN AUTOCADD, 3DSMAX, SKETCH UP, VIZ, FLASH, PHOTOSHOP.
- KNOWLEDGE IN OTHER 3D MODELLING ND RENDERING SOFTWARE IS AN ADVANTAGE, MINIMUM 5 YRS. EXPERIENCE

(5) **QUANTITY SURVEYORS**
- CIVIL ENGINEERS
- EXPERIENCED ON HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL STRUCTURES.
- PROFICIENT IN AUTOCADD AND OTHER RELATED SOFTWARES.
- MINIMUM 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE.

(2) **MASTER PLANNERS**
- ARCHITECTS
- PROFICIENT IN AUTOCADD.
- MINIMUM 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE.

(2) **SENIOR PROJECT MANAGERS**
- CIVIL ENGINEERS
- EXPERIENCED ON HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL STRUCTURES. PROFICIENT IN PRIMAVERA, AUTOCADD AND OTHER RELATED SOFTWARES.
- MINIMUM 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE

(2) **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**
- WITH ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND
- MINIMUM 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE

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Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF EIGHTEEN (18) BRAND NEW MOTOR VEHICLES FOR AN APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT OF SIXTEEN MILLION ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND (P16,120,000.00) PESOS

1. The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes St. (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc, Manila, hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for eighteen (18) brand new motor vehicles. Fourteen (14) Asian Utility Vehicles, one (1) car and three (3) commuter vans.
2. Only bidders registered with the Electronic Procurement Service for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process.
3. Bid forms and the Terms of Reference may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TEN THOUSAND (P10,000.00) PESOS by interested bidders starting on December 4, 2007 from the Office of Commissioner Nilo L. Rosas, BAC Chairman, 2nd Floor, PRC Main Bldg.
4. The PRC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on December 10, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PRC Main Bldg.
5. Final submission and opening of Bids shall be on December 21, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PRC Main Bldg. Bids and eligibility requirements shall be submitted on or before 10:00 A.M. on the day of the opening of bids. Late bids shall not be accepted.
6. The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids to determine whether the bidder concerned complies with and is responsive to all the requirements and conditions for eligibility.
7. All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA)," and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
8. The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) LEONOR TRIPON-ROSERO
Chairperson

(PDI--Nov. 30, 2007)

INVITATION TO BID

WATER DAMAGED ARGENTINE GREY STRIPED SUNFLOWER SEEDS
288 Bags @ 25 Kilos/Bag
Location: Bagbaguin, Novaliches, Caloocan City
December 07, 2007 (Friday)
2:00 p.m. @ MASCO Office, Makati City
For particulars, pls. contact:
Ding Placido &/or Tina Banal
@ MASCO 840-3669 / 813-0719 / 817-5428 / 817-4959

(PDI--Nov. 30, 2007)

Kamikazee rocks St. Joseph

THE ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE OF QUEZON City will hold a nerve wrecking and electrifying show entitled "Kamikazee Live in Concert," on December 1, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. This concert is for the benefit of the St. Joseph College Alumni Association. Other special performers include New Direction, Sundae Cone Delights, Castration of Jolo, and Out of Space. For more information please call 426-3380 or 416-5198.

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSOLIDATED REPORT ON THE FAILURE OF ELECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCTOBER 29, 2007 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SK ELECTIONS; AND THE CONDUCT OF SIMULTANEOUS SPECIAL ELECTIONS ON DECEMBER 15, 2007

Acting Chairman	Resurreccion Z. Borra
Commissioner	Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.
Commissioner	Romeo A. Brawner
Commissioner	Rene V. Sarmiento
Commissioner	Nicodemo T. Ferrer
Commissioner	Moslemen T. Macarambon

Promulgated on 28 November 2007

RESOLUTION NO. 8374

This pertains to the Consolidated Report of the Monitoring Committee on various Failure of Elections as reported by Comelec Field Officials; and the conduct of simultaneous special elections on December 15, 2007.

It appearing that the reasons for the declaration of failure of elections in areas which failed to function in the October 29, 2007 Synchronized Barangay and SK elections as detailed in the Consolidated Report on the Failure of Elections submitted by the Monitoring Committee based on reports by Comelec field officials are justified and in consonance with the provisions of Section 6 of the Omnibus Election Code and other pertinent election laws, the Commission after due deliberation **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, as follows:

1. to schedule the special elections for Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan on **December 15, 2007** in areas where no elections were held on 29 October 2007 as enumerated in the attached List of Areas with reported Failure of Elections; and
2. to direct the Allocation Committee to immediately conduct an inventory of all election forms, supplies and paraphernalia in the affected areas.

RESOLVED, moreover, that the Commission-In-Charge of the Task Forces created pursuant to Minute Resolution No. 07-1764 dated 6 November 2007 shall determine the specific duties and functions thereof.

In view of the foregoing, the Executive Director is hereby directed to immediately notify the Provincial Election Supervisor and Regional Election Director concerned who shall, in turn, notify all candidates and parties concerned.

Let the Executive Director implement this resolution with dispatch and the Education and Information Department to publish the same in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SO ORDERED.

On Official Business [illegible]- 11/27
RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Acting Chairman

FLORENTINO A. TUAZON, JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

MOSLEM T. MACARAMBON
Commissioner

Cc: Acting Chairman
All Commissioners
Executive Director
Deputy Executive Director for Operations
Deputy Executive Director for Administration
Law Department
Education and Information Department
All Working Committees

CONSOLIDATED REPORTS ON AREAS WITH FAILURE OF ELECTIONS
29 OCTOBER 2007 BARANGAY AND SK ELECTIONS

REGION	PROVINCE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED	NO. OF PRECINCTS THAT FAILED	BARANGAYS INVOLVED	BARANGAY PRECINCTS INVOLVED	SK PRECINCTS INVOLVED
NCR		1st Dist. Pasay City	1	26	Brgy. 76	0307A	
						0307B	
						0307C	
						0307D	
						0307E	
						0307F	
						0308A	
						0308B	
						0308C	
						0309A	
						0309B	
						0309C	
						0310A	
						0310B	
						0310C	
						0311A	
						0311B	
						0311C	
						0312A	
						0312B	
						0313A	
						0313B	
						0314A	SK 49
						0315A	SK 50
						0315B	SK 51
						0315C	
						0315D	
						0315E	
CAR	Abra	Tubo	1	1	Tabacda	0015A	SK 7

REGION	PROVINCE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED	NO. OF PRECINCTS THAT FAILED	BARANGAYS INVOLVED	BARANGAY PRECINCTS INVOLVED	SK PRECINCTS INVOLVED
IV	Palawan	Kalayaan	1	1	Pag-asa	0001A & 0001B	SK1
V	Masbate	Balud	1	1	Mapili	0044A	SK 14
		Cataingan	1	1	Curvada	0048A & 0048B	
	Sorsogon	Donsol	1	1	Parina	0049A	SK 29
VI	Capiz	Tapaz	1	1	Rizal Norte	0080A	SK 33
VIII	Northern Samar	Silvino Lobos	5	9	Victory	0046A & 0047A	SK 23
					Geparayan de Turag	0030A	
						0031A	
						0032A & 0032B	
						0030B	SK 12
					Senonogan de Tubang	0044A	SK 21
					Imelda	0040A	SK 17
					Deit de Turag	0024A	SK 9
						0025A & 0025B	
		Lavezares	1	1	Balicuatro	0019A & 0019B	SK 6
	Samar	Gandara	2	2	Burabud	0017A	SK 13
					Capangarasan	0020B	SK 16
		Matuguinao	3	3	De-it	0018A & 0019A	SK 8
					Inobod	0021A	SK 10
					San Roque	0034A	SK 20
		Calbiga	3	3	Guinbanga	0036A	SK 22
					Daligan	0035A	SK 21
					Hubasan	0038A	SK 24
		Calbayog	1	1	Buenavista	0061A	
		Jiabong	1	1	Hinaga	0033A	SK 19
		Motiong	1	1	Malonoy	0036A	SK 21
IX	Zamboanga Sibugay	Talusan	1	3	Moalboal	0041A & 0041B	
						0042A & 0042B	SK 10
						0043A & 0043B	
		Mabuhay	1	3	Pamansaan	0015A	SK 12
						0015B	
						0015C	

REGION	PROVINCE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED	NO. OF PRECINCTS THAT FAILED	BARANGAYS INVOLVED	BARANGAY PRECINCTS INVOLVED	SK PRECINCTS INVOLVED
X	Bukidnon	San Fernando	1	2	Cabuling	0020A	SK 9
						0020B & 0020C	
	Lanao del Norte	Baloi	1	1	Sigayan	0108A & 0109A	SK 22
		Munai	2	3	Lumba Bayabao	0021A	SK 10
						0022A	
					Tagaranao	0053A & 0053B	SK 23
		Nunungan	7	14	Abaga	003A	
						003B	SK 2
					Rebucon	0043A	SK 23
						0044A & 0044B	
					Cabasaran	0019A	SK 10
					Canibongan	007A & 007B	SK 4
					Masibay	0028A	SK 15
						0028B & 0030B	
						0029A	
						0030A	
					Rarab	0039A	SK 21
						0040A	
						0040B	
					Sungod	0045A	SK 24
		Poona Piagapo	1	3	Pendolonan	0038A	SK 22
						0039A	
						0040A	
		Tangcal	1	2	Somiorang	0024A	SK 13
						0025A	
XII	North Cotabato	Pikit	2	18	Macabual	0129A & 0132B	
						0130A	
						0130B	
						0131A	
						0131B	
						0131C	SK 29
						0132A	
						0133A	

REGION	PROVINCE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED	NO. OF PRECINCTS THAT FAILED	BARANGAYS INVOLVED	BARANGAY PRECINCTS INVOLVED	SK PRECINCTS INVOLVED
XII	North Cotabato	Pikit			Bagoinged	0009A & 0009B	
						0010A	
						0010B	SK 2
						0011A	SK 3
						0011B	
						0012A & 0012B	
						0013A & 0013B	
						0014A & 0014B	
						0015A	
						0015B & 0016A	
	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	1	3	Namat Masla	0089A	SK 36
						0089B	
						0089C & 0089D	
ARMM	Shariff Kabunsuan	Barira	1	8	Barira	0008A & 0008B	
						0009A	SK 2
						0010A	SK 3
						0011A	
						0012A	
						0013A	
						0014A	
						0014B	
		Buldon	1	7	Edcor	0026A & 0026B	SK 7
						0027A	
						0028A	
						0029A	
						0029B & 0030A	
						0031A	
						0032A	
		Matanog	1	7	Bayanga Sur	0012A	SK 3
						0013A	SK 4
						0014A	
						0015A	
						0016A	
						0017A	

REGION	PROVINCE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED	NO. OF PRECINCTS THAT FAILED	BARANGAYS INVOLVED	BARANGAY PRECINCTS INVOLVED	SK PRECINCTS INVOLVED
ARMM	Shariff Kabunsuan	Matanog				0017B & 0017C	
		Northern Kabuntulan	1	3	Kapimpilan	0022A & 0022B	SK 7
						0023A	
						0023B	
		Kabuntulan	2	5	Matilak	0042A	
						0043A & 0043B	SK 12
					Liong	0031A	
						0032A	
						0033A & 0033B	SK 9
		Parang	2	6	G.T. Binuar	0040A	SK 7
						0041A	
						0042A	
						0042B	
					Samberen	101A	SK 25
						102A & 102B	
		Datu Blah T. Sinsuat	1	3	Laguitan	0003A	SK 2
						0004A	
						0004B	
	Sulu	Panglima Estino	12	39	Punay	0001A	
						0002A & 0003A	
						0004A & 0005A	
						0006A & 0007A	
						0008A & 0009A	
						0010A & 0011A	SK 11
						0012A & 0013A	
						0014A & 0015A	
						0016A & 0017A	
						0018A & 0019A	
						0020A & 0021A	
						0022A & 0023A	
					Gagguil	0024A	SK 1
						0025A & 0026A	

REGION	PROVINCE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED	NO. OF PRECINCTS THAT FAILED	BARANGAYS INVOLVED...	BARANGAY PRECINCTS INVOLVED	SK PRECINCTS INVOLVED
ARMM	Sulu	Panglima Estino			Gata-Gata	0027A	SK 2
						0031A & 0032A	
					Jinggan	0030A	SK 3
						0031A & 0032A	
					Kamih Pungod	0033A & 0034A	SK 4
					Labug Kabaw	0035A & 0036A	
						0037A & 0038A	SK 5
					Likbah	0039A	SK 6
						0040A & 0041A	
					Lubuk-Lubuk	0042A	SK 7
						0043A & 0044A	
						0045A & 0046A	
					Marsada	0047A & 0048A	SK 8
						0049A & 0050A	
					Paiksa	0051A & 0052A	
						0053A & 0054A	SK 9
					Pandakan	0055A & 0056A	
						0057A & 0058A	
						0059A & 0060A	
						0061A & 0062A	
						0063A & 0064A	
						0065 & 0066A	SK 10
					Tiptipon	0067A	SK 12
						0068A & 0069A	
						0070A	
		Indanan	6	26	Sionugan	0088A	SK 29
						0088B	
						0088C	
						0089A	
						0089B	
						0089C	
					Panabuan	0076A	SK 25
						0076B & 0076C	

REGION	PROVINCE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED	NO. OF PRECINCTS THAT FAILED	BARANGAYS INVOLVED	BARANGAY PRECINCTS INVOLVED	SK PRECINCTS INVOLVED
ARMM	Sulu	Indanan				0077A	
						0078A	
						0079A	
						0079B	
					P. Misuari	0086A	SK 28
						0086B	
						0087A	
						0087B	
					Tumatangis	0104A & 0104B	
						0105A	
						0105B	SK 34
					Lambayong	0058A & 0059A	SK 16
					Tagbak	0090A & 0091A	SK 30
						0091A	
						0092A & 0093A	
						0093A	
						0094A & 0095A	
						0094B & 0094C	
		Maimbung	1	2	Tubig Samin	0008A	
						0008B	SK 20
		Kalingalan Caluang	6	38	Karungdong	0001A & 0018A	SK 1
						0002A & 0003A	
						0004A & 0005A	
						0006A & 0007A	
						0008A & 0009A	
						0010A & 0011A	
						0012A	
					Kambing	0013A	SK 2
						0014A	
						0015A & 0016A	
						0017A & 0018A	
					Kanlagay	0019A & 0020A	SK 3
						0021A	

REGION	PROVINCE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED	NO. OF PRECINCTS THAT FAILED	BARANGAYS INVOLVED	BARANGAY PRECINCTS INVOLVED	SK PRECINCTS INVOLVED
ARMM	Sulu	Kalingalan Caluang				0022A & 0023A	
					Tonggol	0048A & 0049A	SK 9
						0049B & 0050A	
						0051A & 0052A	
						0053A & 0054A	
						0055A & 0056A	
						0057A & 0058A	
					Pang	0024A	SK 8
						0025A & 0026A	
						0027A & 0028A	
						0029A	
						0030A	
						0030B	
						0031A	
						0031B	
						0032A	
						0032B	
						0033A	
						0033B	
						0034A	
						0035A	
					Pangdan-Pangdan	0036A	SK 7
						0037A & 0038A	
						0038A & 0039A	
						0040A	
		Lugus	3	11	Alu Duyong	0001A	SK 1
						0002A & 0003A	
						0004A & 0005A	
						0006A & 0007A	
						0008A & 0009A	
						0010A & 0011A	
					Parian Kayawan	0046A & 0047A	SK 15
						0048A	

REGION	PROVINCE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED	NO. OF PRECINCTS THAT FAILED	BARANGAYS INVOLVED	BARANGAY PRECINCTS INVOLVED	SK PRECINCTS INVOLVED
ARMM	Sulu	Lugus			Alu Bus-Bus	0012A & 0013A	SK 2
						0014A & 0015A	
						0016A & 0017A	
		Panamao	15	37	Seit Lake	0001A	SK 1
						0002A & 0003A	
						0004A & 0005A	
						0006A & 0007A	
						0008A & 0009A	
					Seit Higad	0012A & 0013A	SK 24
						0014A & 0015A	
					Bud Seit	0010A	SK 7
						0011A	
					Bulangsih	0057A & 0058A	SK 8
						0059A & 0060A	
					Upper Patibulan	0062A & 0063A	SK 21
						0064A & 0065A	
						0066A & 0067A	
						0068A & 0069A	
					Tandu-Tandu	00117A	SK 27
						0018A & 0019A	
					Bitanag	0120A	SK 6
						0012A & 0122A	
					Bakud	0110A & 0110B	SK 3
					Tinah	0071A & 0072A	SK 29
					Pubegan	0079A	SK 23
						0080A &0081A	
					Lower Patibulan	0090A & 0091A	SK 20
						0092A & 0093A	
						0094A & 0095A	
						0096A & 0097A	
						0098A & 0099A	
					Kan Dayok	0022A & 0023A	SK 13
						0024A & 0014A	

REGION	PROVINCE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED	NO. OF PRECINCTS THAT FAILED	BARANGAYS INVOLVED	BARANGAY PRECINCTS INVOLVED	SK PRECINCTS INVOLVED
ARMM	Sulu	Panamao				0026A	
					BanGday	0123A & 0124A	SK 4
					Datag	0113A & 0114A	SK 9
						0115A & 0116A	
					Tubig Ganlang	0127A & 0128A	SK 29
						0129A & 0130A	
						0131A & 0132A	
		Siasi	23	64	Poblacion	0001A & 0002A	
						0003A & 0004A	
						0005A & 0006A	
						0007A & 0008A	
						0009A & 0010A	
						0011A	
						0012A & 0013A	
						0014A & 0015A	
						0016A & 0017A	SK 1
					South Laud Muso	0133A	SK 40
					Bakud	0010A	SK 2
					Sipanding	0125A & 0126A	
						0127A	SK 37
					Siouring	0123A & 0124A	SK 36
					Buan	0019A & 0020A	SK 3
						0021A & 0022A	
					Siburi	0117A	SK 33
					Manta Proper	0072A & 0073A	SK 19
					Bulansing Tara	0023A	SK 24
					North Manta	98	SK 24
					Luuk Tara	0071A	SK 18
					Duhul Tara	0035A & 0036A	SK 6
					Tampakan Laminusa	0146A & 0147A	
						0148A & 0149A	
						0150A & 0151A	
						0152A & 0153A	
						0154A	

REGION	PROVINCE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED	NO. OF PRECINCTS THAT FAILED	BARANGAYS INVOLVED	BARANGAY PRECINCTS INVOLVED	SK PRECINCTS INVOLVED
ARMM	Sulu	Siasi			Tengah Laminusa	0155A & 0156A	
						0157A	
						0158A	SK 46
						0159A & 0160A	
					Tong Laminusa	0164A & 0165A	
						0166A & 0167A	
						0168A & 0169A	
						0170A & 0171A	SK 47
					Punongan	0109A & 0110A	SK 29
					South West Bulikkuluh	0136A & 0137A	SK 42
					South Silumpak	0134A & 0135A	SK 41
					North Silumpak	0097A & 0098A	
						0099A	SK 26
					Bulikkuluh	0024A & 0025A	SK 5
					Pukan Laminusa	0103A & 0103B	
						0104A	
						0104B	SK 28
						0105A & 0106A	
						0107A & 0108A	
					Luuk Laminusa	0065A & 0066A	
						0067A & 0068A	SK 17
						0069A & 0070A	
					Kong Kong Laminusa	0062A & 0063A	
						0064A & 0065A	SK 14
						0066A & 0067A	
						0068A	
						0069A & 0069B	
		Luuk	4	26	Tulayan	0111A	
						0111B	
						0111C	SK 22
						0112A	
						0112B	
						0113A & 0113B	

REGION	PROVINCE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED	NO. OF PRECINCTS THAT FAILED	BARANGAYS INVOLVED	BARANGAY PRECINCTS INVOLVED	SK PRECINCTS INVOLVED
ARMM	Sulu	Luuk			Capual	0037A	SK 4
						0038A & 0038B	
						0039A & 0039B	
						0040A & 0041A	
						0041B & 0042A	
						0043A & 0044A	
						0045A & 0046A	
						0047A	
						0047B	
						0048A & 0048B	
						0049A & 0049B	
					Anggilan	0032A	
						0032B	SK 2
						0033A	
						0034A & 0034B	
						0035A & 0035B	
					Lahing-Lahing	0061A	
						0062A	
						0062B & 0063A	
						0064A & 0065A	SK 9
	Basilan	Tuburan	2	6	Dugaa	0036A	
						0037A	
						0037B	SK 2
					Lahi-Lahi	0038A	
		Tuburan				0039A	
						0039B	SK 3
		Sumisip	1	4	Manaul	0074A	
						0075A	
						0076A	
						0077A	
		Lantawan	1	2	Baungis	0013A	SK 3
						0014A & 0014B	

REGION	PROVINCE	CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED	NO. OF PRECINCTS THAT FAILED	BARANGAYS INVOLVED	BARANGAY PRECINCTS INVOLVED	SK PRECINCTS INVOLVED
ARMM	Basilan	Lamitan City	8	8	Calugusan		SK 37
					Lukaumbong		SK 38
					Maloong Canal		SK 39
					Maloong San Jose		SK 40
					Tandung Ahas		SK 42
					Ulame		SK 45
					Ubit		SK 44
					Sta. Clara		SK 41
	Shariff Kabunsuan	Cotabato City	8	8	Bagua 2	0913A & 0193B	
					Bagua Mother		SK 18
					Rosario Heights 7	0370C	
					Kalanganan Mother	0219C	
					Rosario Heights 3	0319B & 0320A	
					Poblacion 6	0086A	
					Poblacion 7	0121A & 0121B	
					Kalanganan 2	0246A	
	Lanao del Sur	Attached Consolidated Project of Precincts as per Atty. Carlito Ravelo, Acting PES Lanao del Sur.	229	487			228

TOTAL NO. OF BARANGAYS THAT FAILED - 370

TOTAL NO. OF CLUSTERED (REGULAR) PRECINCTS THAT FAILED - 888

TOTAL NO. OF SK PRECINCTS THAT FAILED - 303

26-Nov-07

PREPARED BY:

VICTORIA L. HERNAN
Executive Assistant III

NOTED BY:

PIO JOSE S. JOSON
Executive Director

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTION
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR
LANAO DEL SUR

PROJECT OF PRECINCT
OF THE BARANGAYS & SK THAT FAILED TO FUNCTION IN THE OCTOBER 29,2007 ELECTIONS

REGION : ARMM
PROVINCE : LANAO DEL SUR

NAME OF MUNICIPALITY	NAME OF BARANGAYS	BARANGAY LEVEL					SK LEVEL		CLUSTERED/GROUPED PRECINCTS FOR BOTH SK & BRGY		NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF POLLING PLACES
		PRECINCTS NUMBERS	No. of REGISTERED VOTERS PER PRECINCT	GROUPED/CLUSTERED ID PRECINCT NUMBER		Total of Registered Voters after clustering	PRECINCTS NUMBERS	No. of registered SK voters per precinct	PREC NOS.	reg. voters	
01.Balabagan EO CAIRODEN USMAN	NARRA	0054A	200	0054A	1	200			0054A	200	NARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL
		0054B	199	0054B	2	199	SK 28	23	SK28&0054B	222	
		2	399			399		23		422	
02.Balindong EO IBRAHIM MACADATO	POB BALINDONG- 1 PREC. FAILED TO FUNCTION	0003A	200	0003A	3	200			0003A	200	BALINDONG CENT. ELEM SCHOOL
							SK03	20	SK03	20	BALINDONG CENT. ELEM SCHOOL
	BUALAN	0008A	200	0008A	4	200				200	CADAPAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0009A	200	0009A	5	200				200	CADAPAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0009B	105	0009B	6	105	SK09	28	SK09&0009B	133	CADAPAN ELEM. SCHOOL
	LUMBA KAWATO	0035A	200	0035A	7	200	SK 35	43	SK35&0035A	243	LILOD ELEM. SCHOOL
		0035B	200	0035B	8	260			0035B	260	LILOD ELEM. SCHOOL
		0035C	60	0035C					0035C		
	SUB TOTAL 3	7	1165			1165		91		1246	
03.Bayang EO SALEM U. BUZAR	KADAYONAN LUMBAC	0016A	147	0016A	9	147	SK 11	12	SK11&0016A	159	CADAYONAN PRIM. SCHOOL
	KORMATAN	0020A	199	0020A	10	268	SK 15	29	SK15&0020A/0021A	297	CORMATAN PRIM. SCHOOL
		0021A	69	0021A							
	LALAPUNG CENTRAL	0024A	199	0024A	11	278	SK18	13	SK18&0024A/0025A	291	LUCMAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0025A	79	0025A							
	LALAPUNG PROPER	0026A	150	0026A	12	150	SK19	12	SK19&0026A	162	LUCMAN ELEM. SCHOOL
	LINAO	0028A	200	0028A	13	288	SK21	14	SK21&0028A/0029A	302	LINAO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0029A	88	0029A							
	PARAO	0041A	200	0041A	14	200			0041A	200	PARAO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0042A	135	0042A	15	135	SK32	30	SK32&0042A	165	PARAO ELEM. SCHOOL
	RANTIAN	0045A	199	0045A	16	199			0045A	199	RANTIAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0046A	118	0046A	17	118	SK35	45	SK35&0046A	163	RANTIAN ELEM. SCHOOL
	TAGORANAO	0056A	162	0056A	18	162	SK43	31	SK43&0056A	193	TAGORANAO ELEM. SCHOOL
	TANGCAL PROPER	0058A	116	0058A	19	116	SK45	21	SK45&0058A	137	TANGCAL PROP. PRIM. SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 9	14	2061			2061		207		2268	

EO DISALONGA POLALA	BASAK	0007A	199	0007A	22	199			0007A	199	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0008A	200	0008A	23	265			SK5&0008A/0008B	268	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0008B	65	0008B			SK5	3			
	BUBONG	0009A	198	0009A	24	279	SK6	12	SK6&0009A/0009B	291	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0009B	81	0009B							
	BUBONGA-RANAO	0010A	144	0010A	25	144	SK7	15	0010A	159	MSU BINIDAYAN POBLACION
	DANSALAN	0011A	199	0011A	26	204			SK8&0011A/0011B	214	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0011B	5	0011B			SK8	10			
	INGUD	0012A	200	0012A	27	235	SK9	26	SK9&0012A/0012B	261	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0012B	35	0012B							
	LUMBAC	0015A	200	0015A	28	200			0015A	200	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0016A	147	0016A	29	147	SK11	23	SK11&0016A	170	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
	MAGONAYA	0020A	200	0020A	30	200			0020A	200	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0021A	123	0021A	31	123	SK14	6	SK14&021A	129	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
	OLAMA	0025A	197	0025A	32	197			0025A	197	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0025B	165	0025B	33	165	SK17	17	SK17&025B	182	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
	PANTAR	0029A	188	0029A	34	188	SK19	19	SK19&029A	207	MSU BINIDAYAN POBLACION
	PICALILANGAN	0030A	198	0030A	35	258			SK20&030A/030B	282	MSU BINIDAYAN POBLACION
		0030B	60	0030B			SK20	24			
	PICOTAAN	0031A	106	0031A	36	106	SK21	21	SK21&031A	127	MSU BINIDAYAN POBLACION
	PINDOLONAN	0032A	193	0032A	37	220	SK22	4	SK22&032A/032B	224	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0032B	27	0032B							
	POBLACION	0001A	200	0001A	38	200			0001A	200	MSU BINIDAYAN POBLACION
		0001B	116	0001B	39	116			0001B	116	MSU BINIDAYAN POBLACION
		0002A	60	0002A	40	98	SK1	23	SK1&002A/003A	121	MSU BINIDAYAN POBLACION
		0003A	38	0003A							
	SOLDARORO	0033A	197	0033A	41	249			SK23&033A/033B	266	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0033B	52	0033B			SK23	17			
	TUCA	0037A	185	0037A	42	274			SK26&037A/037B	287	MAINDIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0037B	89	0037B			SK26	13			
	SUB TOTAL 16	28	4230			4230		242		4472	
05.Buadiposo-Buntong EO TIMBANG BAO	MANACAB POBLACION	0001A	200	0001A	41	200	SK1	74	SK1&0001A	274	MANACAB CENT ELEM SCHOOL
		0002A	190	0002A	42	190			0002A	190	MANACAB CENT ELEM.SCHOOL
	MINANGA	0032A	200	0032A	43	200	SK19	93	SK19&032A	293	MANACAB CENT ELEM SCHOOL
		0033A	195	0033A	44	195			0033A	195	MANACAB CENT ELEM SCHOOL
	PINDOLUNAN	0036A	200	0036A	45	200	SK21	56	SK21&036A	256	TUCA PRIM. SCHOOL
		0037A	112	0037A	46	112			0037A	112	TUCA PRIM. SCHOOL
	RAGONDINGAN EAST	0040A	200	0040A	47	283	SK21	51	SK21&0040A/0041A	334	RAGONDINGAN CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
		0041A	83	0041A							
	SAPOT	0049A	200	0049A	48	200	SK28	17	0049A	217	SAPOT PRIM. SCHOOL
		0050A	200	0050A	49	200			0050A	200	SAPOT PRIM. SCHOOL
		0051A	200	0051A	50	267			0051A	267	SAPOT PRIM. SCHOOL
		0051B	67	0051B					0051B		
	TUCA	0055A	200	0055A	51	297	SK31	54	SK31&0055A/0055B	351	TUCA PRIM. SCHOOL
		0055B	97	0055B							
	LOMBATAN PATAINGAD	0030A	200	0030A	52	260	SK18	58	SK18&0030A/0031A	338	BUADIPOSO BUNTONG NATL. HIGH SCHOOL
		0031A	60	0031A							
	SUB TOTAL 7	17	2624			2624		403		3027	
06.Bubong EO AMERA H. SARIP	PANTAR	0027A	200	0027A	53	200			0027A	200	PANTAR ELEM. SCHOOL
		0027B	174	0027B	54	174	SK27	51	SK27&027B	225	PANTAR ELEM. SCHOOL
	MONTIAN	0001A	200	0001A	55	241	SK1	30	SK1&0001A/0001B	271	PANAWALAN MONTIAN CENTRAL ELEM. SCHOOL
		0001B	41	0001B							
	PUNUD	0031A	200	0031A	56	287	SK31	31	SK31&0031A/0031B	318	PANTAR ELEM. SCHOOL
		0031B	87	0031B							
	BATANGAN	0005A	200	0005A	57	200			0005A	200	BATANGAN CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
		0005B	113	0005B	58	113	SK5	76	SK5&005B	189	
	PANALAWAN (PROPER)	0026A	200	0026A	59	266	SK26	28	SK26&0026A/0026B	294	PANAWALAN MONTIAN CENTRAL ELEM. SCHOOL
		0026B	66	0026B							
	PALAO	0025A	200	0025A	60	261	SK25	33	SK25&0025A/0025B	294	PANAWALAN MONTIAN CENTRAL ELEM. SCHOOL
		0025B	61	0025B							
	MADANDING	0019A	200	0019A	61	291	SK19	37	SK19&0019A/0019B	328	BUBONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
		0019B	91	0019B							
	SUNGGOD	0035A	200	0035A	62	200			0035A	200	PANAWALAN MONTIAN CENTRAL ELEM. SCHOOL
		0035B	152	0035B	63	152	SK35	33	SK35&035B	185	
	DIMAPATOY	0014A	200	0014A	64	256	SK14	28	SK14&0014A/0014B	284	BATANGAN CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
		0014B	56	0014B							
	TABURO	0036A	169	0036A	65	169	SK36	37	SK36&036A	206	PANAWALAN MONTIAN CENTRA. ELEM. SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 10	19	2810			2810		384		3194	
07. Butig EO SACRAIN GURO	PINDULONAN	0017A	200	0017A	66	200	SK8	54	SK8&017A	254	PINDOLONAN PRIM SCHOOL
		0018A	200	0018A	67	200			0018A	200	PINDOLONAN PRIM SCHOOL
		0019A	16	0019A	68	216			0019A	216	PINDOLONAN PRIM SCHOOL
		0020B	200	0020B					0020A		
	DULANGAN	0013A	200	0013A	69	200	SK6	24	SK6&0013A	224	DOANGAN PRIM. SCHOOL
		0014A	139	0014A	70	139			0014A	139	DOANGAN PRIM. SCHOOL
	DILABAYAN	0012A	200	0012A	71	200	SK5	54	SK5&0012A	254	DILABAYAN PRIM SCHOOL
		0012B	200	0012B	72	300			0012B	300	DILABAYAN PRIM. SCHOOL
		0012C	100	0012C					0012C		
	SUB TOTAL 3	9	1455			1455		132		1587	
08. Ditsaan-Ramain EO RASAL SARIP	PAGALONGAN BUADIDINYA	0043A	200	0043A	72	200	SK25	42	SK25&043A	242	PAGALONGAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0044A	108	0044A	73	108			0044A	108	PAGALONGAN ELEM SCHOOL
	BUADE OLOK	0014A	124	0014A	74	259	SK9	21	SK9&0014A/0014B	280	SULTAN ALAUYA ALONTO CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0014B	135	0014B							
		0015A	81	0015A	75	81			0015A	81	************ DO ***********
	SULTAN PANGADAPAN	0057A	200	0057A	76	200	SK32	25	SK32&057A	225	************ DO ***********
		0058A	176	0058A	77	232			0058A	232	SULTAN ALAUYA ALONTO CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0058B	56	0058B					0058B		
	BAYABAO RAMAIN	0009A	199	0009A	78	293	SK6	34	SK6&0009A/0009B	327	BAYABAO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0009B	94	0009B							
	SUB TOTAL 4	9	1373			1373		122		1495	
09. Ganassi EO PHAISAL MARUHOM	LUMBAK	0018A	153	0018A	79	153	SK15	9	SK15&0018A	162	GADUNGAN ELEM SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 1	1	153			153		9		162	
10. Lumba Bayabao EO ARAGASI SUMPINGAN	GAMBAI	0017A	200	0017A	80	200	SK16	13	SK16&017A	213	MAPANTAO ELEM SCHOOL
		0017B	120	0017B	81	120			0017B	120	MAPANTAO ELEM SCHOOL
	BANTAYAO POBLACION	0007A	200	0007A	82	231	SK7	12	SK7&0007A/0007B	243	MAPANTAO ELEM SCHOOL
		0007B	31	0007B							
	SABALA BANTAYAO	0030A	200	0030A	83	230	SK28	8	SK8&0030A/0030B	238	MAPANTAO ELEM SCHOOL
		0030B	30	0030B							
	LAMA	0020A	200	0020A	84	244	SK19	19	SK19&0020A/0020B	263	TALUAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0020B	44	0020B							
	CALILANGAN	0009A	200	0009A	85	300	SK8	11	SK8&0009A/0009B	311	TALUAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0009B	100	0009B							
	SUB TOTAL 8	10	1325			1325		63		1388	
11. Lumbaca-Unayan AEO DIANTAPUN BENITO	POBLACION DILANSON	0001A	200	0001A	86	200			0001A	200	DILAUSAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0002A	200	0002A	87	200			0002A	200	DILAUSAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0003A	113	0003A	88	113	SK1	49	SK1&0003A	162	DILAUSAN ELEM. SCHOOL
	BANGON	0004A	200	0004A	89	200			0004A	200	ARIMAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0005A	193	0005A	90	193	SK2	75	SK2&0005A	268	ARIMAN ELEM SCHOOL
	BETA PROPER	0006A	169	0006A	91	169	SK3	7	SK3&0006A	176	ORIENTAL BETA ELEM SCHOOL
	CALALON	0007A	200	0007A	92	244	SK4	12	SK4&0007A/0007B	256	ORIENTAL BETA ELEM. SCHOOL
		0007B	44	0007B							
	CALIPAPA	0008A	200	0008A	93	209	SK5	19	SK5&0008A/0008B	228	ORIENTAL BETA ELEM SCHOOL
		0008B	9	0008B							
	DIMAPAOK	0009A	200	0009A	94	200	SK6	19	SK6&0009A	219	DILAUSAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0010A	200	0010A	95	217			0010A	217	DILAUSAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0010B	17	0010B					0010B		DILAUSAN ELEM. SCHOOL
	LUMBAK DILAUSAN	0011A	200	0011A	96	200	SK7	15	SK7&0011A	215	LUMBAC DILAUSAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0012A	200	0012A	97	200			0012A	200	LUMBAC DILAUSAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0013A	200	0013A	98	238			0013A	238	LUMBAC DILAUSAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0013B	38	0013B					0013B		
	ORIENTAL BETA	0014A	200	0014A	99	200			0014A	200	ORIENTAL BETA ELEM SCHOOL
		0015A	200	0015A	100	200			0015A	200	ORIENTAL BETA ELEM SCHOOL
		0016A	200	0016A	101	200			0016A	200	ORIENTAL BETA ELEM SCHOOL
		0017A	118	0017A	102	118	SK8	78	SK8&0017A	196	ORIENTAL BETA ELEM SCHOOL
	TRINGUN	0018A	200	0018A	102	200	SK9	11	SK9&0018A	211	TRINGUN PRIMARY SCHOOL
		0019A	200	0019A	103	268			0019A	268	TRINGUN PRIMARY SCHOOL
		0019B	68	0019B					0019B		
	SUB TOTAL 9	22	3769			3769		285		4054	
12. Lumbatan AEO NORMIDA UMPAR	ALOG	0002A	200	0002A	104	200	SK2	41	SK2&0002A	241	LUMBATAN CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0002B	161	0002B	105	161			0002B	161	LUMBATAN CENTRAL SCHOOL
	BAYASONGUN	0003A	200	0003A	106	200	SK3	4	SK3&0003A	204	MACADAR ELEM. SCHOOL
		0003B	200	0003B	107	290			0003B	290	MACADAR ELEM. SCHOOL
		0003C	90	0003C					0003C		
	BUAD	0004A	200	0004A	108	200	SK4	9	SK4&0004A	209	LUMBATAN CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0004B	131	0004B	109	131			0004B	131	LUMBATAN CENTRAL SCHOOL
	DAGOOK	0007A	200	0007A	110	200	SK7	30	SK7&0007A	230	LUMBATAN CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0007B	200	0007B	111	200			0007B	200	LUMBATAN CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0007C	200	0007C	112	200			0007C	200	LUMBATAN CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0007D	109	0007D	113	109			0007D	109	LUMBATAN CENTRAL SCHOOL
	LUMBAC ALOG	0012A	200	0012A	114	200	SK12	16	SK12&0012A	216	SULTAN BATUAMPAR ELEM SCHOOL
		0012B	200	0012B	115	200			0012B	200	SULTAN BATUAMPAR ELEM SCHOOL
		0012C	186	0012C	116	186			0012C	186	SULTAN BATUAMPAR ELEM SCHOOL
	LUMBAC BACAYAWAN	0013A	200	0013A	117	200	SK13	51	SK13&0013A	251	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0013B	200	0013B	118	200			0013B	200	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0013C	200	0013C	119	200			0013C	200	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0013D	155	0013D	120	155			0013D	155	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
	LUNAY	0014A	200	0014A	121	200	SK14	11	SK14&0014A	211	TAMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0014B	198	0014B	122	198			0014B	198	TAMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
	MINANGA	0017A	200	0017A	123	200	SK17	21	SK17&0017A	221	MACADAR ELEM. SCHOOL
		0017B	135	0017B	124	135			0017B	135	MACADAR ELEM. SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 8	22	3965			3965		183		4148	
13. Lumbayanague EO DIPATUAN PANGCATAN JR.	DALAON	0013A	200	0013A	125	266	SK6	12	SK6&0013A/0013B	278	DALAON PRIM SCHOOL
		0013B	66	0013B							
	BUALAN	0006A	200	0006A	126	200	SK19	44	SK19&0006A	244	BUALAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0007A	199	0007A	127	199			0007A	199	
	NANAGUIN	0021A	200	0021A	128	200			0021A	200	NANAGUN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0022A	200	0022A	129	223	SK4	40	SK4&0022A/0022B	263	NANAGUN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0022B	23	0022B							
	DILIMBAYAN	0016A	172	0016A	130	172	SK8	7	SK8&0016A	179	CASALAYAN PRIM SCHOOL
	KASALAYAN	0012A	200	0012A	131	200			0012A	200	CASALAYAN PRIM SCHOOL
		0012B	121	0012B	132	121	SK20	8	SK20&0012B	129	CASALAYAN PRIM SCHOOL
	DEROMOYOD	0014A	200	0014A	133	200	SK12	41	SK12&0014A	241	DEMOROYOD ELEM SCHOOL
		0015A	200	0015A	134	249			0015A	249	DEMOROYOD ELEM SCHOOL
		0015B	49	0015B					0015B		
	WAGO - 1PREC. FAILURE	0032A	111	0032A	135	111	SK22	8	SK22&032A	119	WAGO ELEM. SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 7	15	2141			2141		160		2301	
14.Madalum EO ALLEN MACAPANDAG	ABAGA	0003A	139	0003A	136	139	SK2	18	SK2&0003A	157	ABAGA PRIM. SCHOOL
	BUBONG	0008A	200	0008A	137	242	SK7	44	SK7&0008A/0008B	286	BUBONG PRIM. SCHOOL
		0008B	42	0008B							
	PARIDI KALIMODAN	0028A	180	0028A	138	180	SK26	4	SK26&028A	184	P. KALIMODAN MADRASAH SCHOOL
	PUNOD	0029A	116	0029A	139	116	SK27	22	SK27&029A	138	PUNUD ELEM. SCHOOL
	RAOTAN	0031A	104	0031A	140	104	SK29	21	SK29&031A	125	RAOTAN ELEM. SCHOOL
	LILITUN	0023A	69	0023A	141	69	SK21	9	SK21&023A	78	LILITUN MADRASAH SCHOOL
	TAMPORONG	0039A	137	0039A	142	137	SK35	12	SK35&039A	149	TAMPARONG ELEM SCHOOL
	SUGOD	0036A	200	0036A	143	200	SK36	26	SK36&036A	226	SUGOD ELEM. SCHOOL
		0036B	100	0036B	144	100			0036B	100	SUGOD ELEM. SCHOOL
		0037A	162	0037A	145	162			0037A	162	SUGOD ELEM. SCHOOL
	RAYA	0030A	185	0030A	146	185	SK28	6	SK28&030A	191	RAYA PRIM. SCHOOL
	BAGOAINGUD	0005A	47	0005A	147	47	SK4	7	SK4&0005A	54	BAGOAINGUD PRIM SCHOOL
	PADIAN TOROGAN	0026A	125	0026A	148	125	SK24	10	SK24&026A	135	P. TOROGAN MADRASAH SCHOOL
	PAGAYAWAN	0027A	119	0027A	149	119	SK25	13	SK25&027A	132	PAGAYAWAN MADRASAH SCHOOL
	DANDAMON	0011A	200	0011A	150	238	SK10	67	SK10&0011A/0011B	305	DANDAMUN MADRASAH SCHOOL
		0011B	38	0011B							
	SALONGABANDING	0033A	200	0033A	151	300			0033A	300	S. BANDING PRIM SCHOOL
		0033B	100	0033B					0033B		
		0034A	79	0034A	152	79	SK31	16	SK31&034A	95	S. BANDING PRIM. SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 14	20	2642			2642		275		2917	
15.Madamba EO TAHAMAN MANGONDAYA	LINUK	0021A	200	0021A	153	248	SK12	30	SK12&0021A/0021B	278	LINUK PRIM. SCHOOL
		0021B	48	0021B							
	LUMBACA INGUD SK ONLY						SK13	75	SK 13	75	LUMBACA INGUD ARABIC SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 2	2	248			248		105		353	
16.Maguing EO MAMANGCOSAI COLANGCAG	BATO BATO	0010A	200	0010A	154	200	SK6	10	SK6&0010A	210	BATO-BATO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0011A	200	0011A	155	200			0011A	200	BATO-BATO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0012A	200	0012A	156	200			0012A	200	BATO-BATO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0013A	200	0013A	157	200			0013A	200	BATO-BATO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0014A	200	0014A	158	210			0014A	210	BATO-BATO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0014B	10	0014B					0014B		
	BALAWAG	0007A	172	0007A	159	172	SK4	13	SK4&0007A	185	BALINTAO ELEM. SCHOOL
	LILOD BOROCOT	0032A	200	0032A	160	200	SK21	23	SK21&032A	223	BOROCOT CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0033A	183	0033A	161	183			0033A	183	BOROCOT CENTRAL SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 3	9	1565			1565		46		1611	
17. Marantao	POBLACION	0001A	183	0001A	162	183	SK1	37	SK1&0001A	220	SULTAN GURO CENTRAL SCHOOL
	BACAYAWAN	0002A	200	0002A	163	200	SK2	21	SK2&0002A	221	BACAYAWAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0003A	200	0003A	164	227			0003A	227	BACAYAWAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0003B	27	0003B					0003B		
	BACONG	0004A	200	0004A	165	200	SK3	71	SK3&0004A	271	DAANAINGUD ELEM SCHOOL
		0005A	200	0005A	166	200			0005A	200	DAANAINGUD ELEM SCHOOL
		0006A	200	0006A	167	200			0006A	200	DAANAINGUD ELEM SCHOOL
		0006B	134	0006B	168	134			0006B	134	DAANAINGUD ELEM. SCHOOL
	BANGA PANTAR	0007A	200	0007A	169	291	SK4	25	SK4&0007A/0007B	316	LIMA DATU PRIM SCHOOL
		0007B	91	0007B							
	BATAL PUNUD	0008A	200	0008A	170	200			0008A	200	SULTAN DISOMIMBA CENT SCHOOL
		0009A	200	0009A	171	200			0009A	200	SULTAN DISOMIMBA CENT. SCHOOL
		0010A	200	0010A	172	216	SK5	31	SK5&0010A/0010B	247	SULTAN DISOMIMBA CENT SCHOOL
		0010B	16	0010B							
	BUBONG MADANDING	0011A	200	0011A	173	200			0011A	200	BUBONG MADANDING PRIM SCHOOL
		0012A	200	0012A	174	200			0012A	200	BUBONG MADANDING PRIM SCHOOL
		0012B	151	0012B	175	151	SK6	100	SK6&0012B	251	BUBONG MADANDING PRIM SCHOOL
	CAMALIG POBLACION	0013A	200	0013A	176	200			0013A	200	CAMALIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0014A	200	0014A	177	200			0014A	200	CAMALIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0014B	110	0014B	178	110	SK7	68	SK7&0014B	178	CAMALIG ELEM. SCHOOL
	CAMALIG BANDARA INGUD	0015A	200	0015A	179	291	SK8	10	SK8&0015A/0015B	301	CAMALIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0015B	91	0015B							
	CAMALIG BUBONG	0016A	200	0016A	180	200	SK9	28	SK9&0016A	228	CAMALIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0017A	200	0017A	181	227			0017A	227	CAMALIG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0017B	27	0017B					0017B		
	CAWAYAN DIALONGANA	0018A	200	0018A	182	200			0018A	200	CAWAYAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0019A	148	0019A	183	148	SK10	5	SK10&0019A	153	CAWAYAN ELEM. SCHOOL
	CAWAYAN BACOLOD	0020A	200	0020A	184	240	SK11	24	SK11&0020A/0020B	264	BACOLOD PRIM SCHOOL
		0020B	40	0020B							
	CAWAYAN KALAW	0021A	200	0021A	185	200	SK12	113	SK12&0021A	313	KALAW PRIM. SCHOOL
		0022A	200	0022A	186	200			0022A	200	KALAW PRIM. SCHOOL
		0023A	200	0023A	187	209			0023A	209	KALAW PRIM. SCHOOL
		0023B	9	0023B					0023B		
	CAWAYAN LINUK	0024A	200	0024A	188	200	SK13	28	SK13&024A	228	CAWAYAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0025A	200	0025A	189	257			0025A	257	CAWAYAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0025B	67	0025B					0025B		
	DAANA INGUD	0026A	200	0026A	190	200			0026A	200	DAANAINGUD ELEM SCHOOL
		0027A	200	0027A	191	200			0027A	200	DAANAINGUD ELEM SCHOOL
		0027B	160	0027B	192	160	SK14	54	SK14&027B	214	DAANAINGUD ELEM SCHOOL
	ILIAN	0028A	200	0028A	193	200			0028A	200	ILIAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0029A	200	0029A	194	200			0029A	200	ILIAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0030A	200	0030A	195	200			0030A	200	ILIAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0030B	108	0030B	196	108	SK15	100	SK15&0030B	208	ILIAN ELEM. SCHOOL
	INUDARAN CAMPONG	0031A	200	0031A	197	200	SK16	12	SK16&031A	212	SULTAN GURO CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0032A	200	0032A	198	200			0032A	200	SULTAN GURO CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0033A	200	0033A	199	223			0033A	223	SULTAN GURO CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0033B	23	0033B					0033B		
	INODARAN LOWAY	0034A	200	0034A	200	200	SK17	17	SK17&034A	217	SULTAN GURO CENTRAL SCHOOL
	INODARAN LUMBAC	0035A	200	0035A	201	200			0035A	200	SULTAN GURO CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0036A	200	0036A	202	200			0036A	200	SULTAN GURO CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0037A	200	0037A	203	200			0037A	200	SULTAN GURO CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0038A	200	0038A	204	200			0038A	200	SULTAN GURO CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0039A	116	0039A	205	116	SK18	10	SK18&039A	126	SULTAN GURO CENTRAL SCHOOL
	KIALDAN (PROPER)	0040A	200	0040A	206	200	SK19	74	SK19&0040A	274	KIALDAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0041A	200	0041A	207	200			0041A	200	KIALDAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0042A	200	0042A	208	200			0042A	200	KIALDAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0042B	200	0042B	209	208			0042B	208	KIALDAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0042C	8	0042C					0042C		
	LUBO (LININDONG)	0043A	200	0043A	210	200	SK20	19	SK20&043A	219	MUNICIPAL HALL BLDG.
		0044A	200	0044A	211	200			0044A	200	MUNICIPAL HALL BLDG.
		0045A	200	0045A	212	200			0045A	200	MUNICIPAL HALL BLDG.
		0046A	200	0046A	213	221			0046A	221	MUNICIPAL HALL BLDG.
		0046B	21	0046B					0046B		
	LUMBAC KIALDAN	0047A	200	0047A	214	200	SK21	44	SK21&047A	244	KIALDAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0048A	200	0048A	215	288			0048A	288	KIALDAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0048B	88	0048B					0048B		
	MANTAPOLI	0049A	200	0049A	216	200			0049A	200	MUNICIPAL HALL BLDG.
		0050A	200	0050A	217	200			0050A	200	MUNICIPAL HALL BLDG.
		0051A	200	0051A	218	200			0051A	200	MUNICIPAL HALL BLDG.
		0052A	200	0052A	219	200			0052A	200	MUNICIPAL HALL BLDG.
		0053A	150	0053A	220	150	SK22	14	SK22&053A	164	MUNICIPAL HALL BLDG.
	MATAMPAY	0054A	200	0054A	221	200			0054A	200	MATAMPAY PRIM SCHOOL
		0055A	146	0055A	222	146	SK23	5	SK23&055A	151	MATAMPAY PRIM SCHOOL
	MAUL (PROPER)	0056A	200	0056A	223	200	SK24	8	SK24&056A	208	SULTAN DISOMIMBA CENT SCHOOL
		0057A	200	0057A	224	288			0057A	288	SULTAN DISOMIMBA CENT SCHOOL
		0057B	88	0057B					0057B		
	MAUL ILIAN	0058A	200	0058A	225	200			0058A	200	BAI SIMALAD ELEM SCHOOL
		0059A	200	0059A	226	200			0059A	200	BAI SIMALAD ELEM SCHOOL
		0060A	200	0060A	227	200			0060A	200	BAI SIMALAD ELEM SCHOOL
		0061A	187	0061A	228	187	SK25	69	SK25&061A	256	BAI SIMALAD ELEM SCHOOL
	MAUL (LUMBACA INGUD)	0062A	200	0062A	229	200	SK26	25	SK26&062A	225	SULTAN DISOMIMBA CENT SCHOOL
		0063A	200	0063A	230	255			0063A	255	SULTAN DISOMIMBA CENT SCHOOL
		0063B	55	0063B					0063B		
	NATARON	0064A	200	0064A	231	200	SK27	18	SK27&064A	218	BACAYAWAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0065A	200	0065A	232	221			0065A	221	BACAYAWAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0065B	21	0065B					0065B		
	PAGALONGAN(BACAYAWAN)	0066A	200	0066A	233	200	SK28	24	SK28&066A	224	BACAYAWAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0067A	200	0067A	234	242			0067A	242	BACAYAWAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0067B	42	0067B					0067B		
	PALAO (RANARANAO)	0068A	200	0068A	235	200			0068A	200	RANARANAO PRIM SCHOOL
		0068B	129	0068B	236	129	SK29	19	SK29&068B	148	RANARANAO PRIM. SCHOOL
	PANTAIMAS	0069A	200	0069A	237	200	SK30	6	SK30&069A	206	MUNICIPAL HALL BLDG.
		0070A	200	0070A	238	200			0070A	200	MUNICIPAL HALL BLDG.
		0071A	200	0071A	239	200			0071A	200	MUNICIPAL HALL BLDG.
		0072A	200	0072A	240	220			0072A	220	MUNICIPAL HALL BLDG.
		0072B	20	0072B					0072B		
	POONA MARANTAO	0073A	200	0073A	241	200	SK31	122	SK31&073A	322	DAANAINGUD ELEM SCHOOL
		0074A	200	0074A	242	292			0074A	292	DAANAINGUD ELEM SCHOOL
		0074B	92	0074B					0074B		
	PUNUD PROPER	0075A	200	0075A	243	200			0075A	200	SULTAN DISOMIMBA CENT SCHOOL
		0076A	200	0076A	244	200			0076A	200	SULTAN DISOMIMBA CENT SCHOOL
		0077A	196	0077A	245	196	SK32	39	SK32&077A	235	SULTAN DISOMIMBA CENT SCHOOL
	TACUD (PINDOLONAN)	0078A	200	0078A	246	200			0078A	200	TACUB PRIM SCHOOL
		0078B	112	0078B	247	112	SK33	40	SK33&078B	152	TACUB PRIM SCHOOL
	TUCA KIALDAN	0079A	200	0079A	248	200			0079A	200	KIALDAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0080A	200	0080A	249	200			0080A	200	KIALDAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0081A	200	0081A	250	200			0081A	200	KIALDAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0082A	200	0082A	251	200			0082A	200	KIALDAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0083A	145	0083A	252	145	SK34	58	SK34&083A	203	KIALDAN ELEM SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 34	109	18191			18191		1338		19529	
18.Marogong EO UDATO A. SARIP	CALUMBOG	0020A	200	0020A	253	215			0020A	215	CALUMBOG MADRASAH ARABIC SCHOOL
		0020B	15	0020B					0020B		
	MAROGONG	0001A	200	0001A	254	200			0001A	200	MAROGONG NAT'L HIGH SCHOOL
		0002A	200	0002A	255	200			0002A	200	MAROGONG NAT'L HIGH SCHOOL
		0003A	200	0003A	256	200			0003A	200	MAROGONG NAT'L HIGH SCHOOL
		0004A	200	0004A	257	200			0004A	200	MAROGONG NAT'L HIGH SCHOOL
		0004B	200	0004B	258	200			0004B	200	MAROGONG NAT'L HIGH SCHOOL
		0004C	168	0004C	259	168	SK1	23	SK1&0004C	191	MAROGONG NAT'L HIGH SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 2	8	1383			1383		23		1406	
19.Masiu	MACADAAG TALAGUIAN	0035A	200	0035A	260	200	SK22	60	SK22&035A	260	MACADAAG ELEM SCHOOL

EO SAMAD PANGANDAMEN		0035B	200	0035B	261	280			0035B	280	MACADAAG ELEM.SCHOOL
		0035C	80	0035C					0035C		
	CASIM LUMBACA INGUD	0018A	200	0018A	262	200	SK11	32	SK11&0018A	232	MACADAAG ELEM SCHOOL
		0018B	198	0018B	263	198			0018B	198	MACADAAG ELEM.SCHOOL
	MAGOMPARA APA MIMBALAY	0013A	200	0013A	264	200			0013A	200	MIMBALAY ELEM. SCHOOL
		0014A	200	0014A	265	200			0014A	200	MIMBALAY ELEM. SCHOOL
		0014B	127	0014B	266	127	SK8	8	SK8&0014B	135	MIMBALAY ELEM. SCHOOL
	ALUMPIANG PIANO MIMBALAY	0044A	200	0044A	267	200	SK29	10	SK29&044A	210	MIMBALAY ELEM. SCHOOL
		0044B	110	0044B	268	110			0044B	110	MIMBALAY ELEM. SCHOOL
	ALIM RAYA CARAMIAN	0006A	200	0006A	269	265	SK3	27	SK3&0006A/0006B	292	MIMBALAY ELEM. SCHOOL
		0006B	65	0006B							
	MAKALUMPANG LUMBAC CARAMIAN	0031A	200	0031A	270	200	SK20	15	SK20&0031A	215	MIMBALAY ELEM. SCHOOL
		0032A	188	0032B	271	188			0032B	188	MIMBALAY ELEM. SCHOOL
	AMAI DATIMBANG BALINDONG	0009A	200	0009A	272	245	SK5	28	SK5&0009A/0009B	273	MIMBALAY ELEM. SCHOOL
		0009B	45	0009B							
	BUADI AMALOY	0001A	200	0001A	273	200			0001A	200	BUADIAMALOY ELEM. SCHOOL
		0002A	200	0002A	274	200			0002A	200	BUADIAMALOY ELEM. SCHOOL
		0003A	174	0003A	275	174	SK1	12	SK1&0003A	186	BUADIAMALOY ELEM. SCHOOL
	LAILA LUMBAC BANGON	0025A	200	0025A	276	200			0025A	200	MAGANDIA ELEM. SCHOOL
		0026A	200	0026A	277	200			0026A	200	MAGANDIA ELEM. SCHOOL
		0026B	142	0026B	278	142	SK16	40	SK16&026B	182	MAGANDIA ELEM. SCHOOL
	GONDARING ASA ADIGAO	0015A	200	0015A	279	267	SK9	38	SK9&0015A/0015B	305	PANGANDAMAN CENT. ELEM. SCHOOL
		0015B	67	0015B							
		0016A	200	0016A	280	200			0016A	200	PANGANDAMAN CENT ELEM SCHOOL
	MOHAMAD TANGUL	0042A	200	0042A	281	200	SK27	8	SK27&042A	208	TANGUL PRIM. SCHOOL
		0042B	145	0042B	282	145			0042B	145	TANGUL PRIM. SCHOOL
	SAMBUANG ATAWA	0048A	200	0048A	283	200	SK31	36	SK31&048A	236	BUISAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0048B	155	0048B	284	155			0048B	155	BUISAN ELEM. SCHOOL
	ABDULLAH BUISAN	0004A	200	0004A	285	200	SK2	19	SK2&0004A	219	BUISAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0005A	128	0005A	286	128			0005A	128	BUISAN ELEM. SCHOOL
	ALIP LALABUAN	0007A	200	0007A	287	200	SK4	45	SK4&007A	245	ALIP LALABUAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0008A	179	0008A	288	179			0008A	179	ALIP LALABUAN ELEM. SCHOOL
	MARANDACOM PUTAD	0040A	200	0040A	289	200	SK25	29	SK25&040A	229	TALUB ELEM. SCHOOL
		0040B	103	0040B	290	103			0040B	103	TALUB ELEM. SCHOOL
	LABAY MOREATAO BAE	0043A	200	0043A	291	200	SK28	21	SK28&040A	221	MARUHOMBAE ELEM. SCHOOL
		0043B	200	0043B	292	200			0043B	200	MARUHOMBAE ELEM. SCHOOL
		0043C	118	0043C	293	118			0043C	118	MARUHOMBAE ELEM. SCHOOL
	CALILANGAN	0024A	200	0024A	294	200	SK15	60	SK15&024A	260	MANGONDATO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0024B	163	0024B	295	163			0024B	163	MANGONDATO ELEM. SCHOOL
	MANALOCON TALUB	0038A	200	0038A	296	200	SK24	62	SK24&038A	262	TALUB ELEM. SCHOOL
		0038B	200	0038B	297	200			0038B	200	TALUB ELEM. SCHOOL
		0039A	200	0039A	298	248			0039A	248	TALUB ELEM. SCHOOL
		0039B	48	0039B					0039B		
	TOMAMBILING LUMBACA INGUD	0050A	200	0050A	299	276	SK33	34	SK33&0050A/0050B	310	MACAALIN ELEM SCHOOL
		0050B	76	0050B							
		0051A	200	0051A	300	200			0051A	200	MACAALIN ELEM. SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 19	47	7911			7911		584		8495	
20.Molundo EO ALIREZA MACARAYA	BUADISOBA	0005A	200	0005A	301	200			0005A	200	MULONDO CENTRAL ELEM SCHOOL
		0006A	200	0006A	302	200			0006A	200	MULONDO CENTRAL ELEM SCHOOL
		0007A	200	0007A	303	200			0007A	200	MULONDO CENTRAL ELEM SCHOOL
		0008A	200	0008A	304	291	SK8	27	SK27&0008A/0008B	318	MULONDO CENTRAL ELEM SCHOOL
		0008B	91	0008B							
	LILOD RAYA BALAY	0027A	200	0027A	305	200	SK27	17	SK19&027A	217	BAYABALAY PRIM SCHOOL
		0027B	162	0027B	306	162			0027B	162	BAYABALAY PRIM SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 2	7	1253			1253		44		1297	
21.Pagayawan EO ALIBLIAN CAPAMPANGAN	KALALUDAN	0012A	190	0012A	307	287	SK8	5	SK8&0012A/0012B	292	GIRGIRBUBONG NAT'L HIGH SCHOOL
		0012B	97	0012B							
		0013A	162	0013A	308	162			0013A	162	GIRGIRBUBONG NAT'L HIGH SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 1	3	449			449	—	5		454	
22.Piagapo EO MACAPANTAO I. CARIM	BASAK	0006A	199	0006A	309	283	SK6	49	SK6&0006A/0006B	332	PIAGAPO CENT ELEM SCHOOL
		0006B	84	0006B							
	PALACAT	0021A	196	0021A	310	196	SK21	54	SK21&021A	250	UDALO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0021B	200	0021B	311	268			0021B	268	UDALO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0021C	68	0021C					0021C		
	KALUNGUNAN	0014A	200	0014A	312	200	SK14	53	SK14&014A	253	UDALO CENT ELEM SCHOOL
		0014B	181	0014B	313	181			0014B	181	UDALO CENT ELEM SCHOOL
	UDALO	0037A	200	0037A	314	200	SK37	48	SK37&037A	248	UDALO ELEM SCHOOL
		0037B	189	0037B	315	189				189	
	SUB TOTAL 4	9	1517			1517		204		1721	
23. Poona-Bayabao EO CAYANDATO MULILODA was designated as Acting EO because EO Faisal Monding did not report allegedly due to health reason.	GATA	0001A	200	0001A	316	200	SK1	42	SK1&0001A	242	P.I CENTRAL ELEM. SCHOOL
		0001B	200	0001B	317	200			0001B	200	P.I CENTRAL ELEM. SCHOOL
		0001C	200	0001C	318	200			0001C	200	P.I CENTRAL ELEM. SCHOOL
		0001D	181	0001D	319	181			0001D	181	P.I CENTRAL ELEM. SCHOOL
	DONGCOAN	0014A	200	0014A	320	265	SK14	14	SK14&0014A/0014B	279	P.I CENTRAL ELEM. SCHOOL
		0014B	65	0014B							
	BANGON DOLAWAN	0003A	200	0003A	321	253	SK3	39	SK3&0003A/0003B	292	P.I CENTRAL ELEM. SCHOOL
		0003B	53	0003B							
	CADAYONAN	0008A	200	0008A	322	200	SK8	65	SK8&0008A	265	MAAHAD AMIN SARIP
		0008B	200	0008B	323	200			0008B	200	MAAHAD AMIN SARIP
		0008C	200	0008C	324	200			0008C	200	MAAHAD AMIN SARIP
		0008D	128	0008D	325	128			0008D	128	MAAHAD AMIN SARIP
	SUB TOTAL 4	12	2027			2027		160		2187	
24.Pualas EO TAHA CASIDAR	DIANLA	0015A	200	0015A	327	200	SK10	25	SK10&0015A	225	DAKSLA ELEM. SCHOOL
		0015B	181	0015B	328	181			0015B	181	DAKSLA ELEM. SCHOOL
	PUROG	0025A	200	0025A	329	259	SK18	18	SK18&0025A/0025B	277	PUROG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0025B	59	0025B							
	YARAN	0031A	200	0031A	330	200	SK23	10	SK23&031A	210	YARAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0032A	200	0032A	331	200			0032A	200	YARAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0033A	200	0033A	332	236			0033A	236	YARAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0033B	36	0033B					0033B		
	LINUK	0018A	200	0018A	333	287	SK13	8	SK13&0018A/0018B	295	LINUK PRIM. SCHOOL
		0019A	87	0019A							
	BORING	0007A	200	0007A	334	202	SK6	19	SK6&0007A/0007B	221	BORING PRIM SCHOOL
		0007B	2	0007B							
	SUB TOTAL 5	12	1765			1765		80		1845	
25.Sagularan EO MONERA AMBALO	SUNGOD	0059A	200	0059A	335	200	SK30	62	SK30&059A	262	SUNGGOD PRIM. SCHOOL
		0060A	200	0060A	336	200			0060A	200	SUNGGOD PRIM. SCHOOL
		0060B	198	0060B	337	198			0060B	198	SUNGGOD PRIM. SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 1	3	598			598		62		660	
26.Sultan Dumalondong EO SOBAIRA A. H. SOLAIMAN was designated as Acting EO because AEO Siffa Cadar did not report allegedly due to health reason.	LUMBAC	0001A	200	0001A	338	200	SK1	120	SK1&0001A	320	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0001B	200	0002A	339	200			0002A	200	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0002A	200	0003A	340	200			0003A	200	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0002B	200	0004A	341	200			0004A	200	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0002C	5	0005A	342	205			0005A	205	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0003A	200	0005B					0005B		LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
	BACAYAWAN	0004A	200	0004A	343	200	SK2	64	SK2&0004A	264	PUNUNG ELEM SCHOOL
		0004B	200	0004B	344	200			0004B	200	PUNUNG ELEM SCHOOL
		0005A	200	0005A	345	200			0005A	200	PUNUNG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0005B	200	0005B	346	213			0005B	213	PUNUNG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0005C	13	0005C					0005C		
	DINGANUN	0006A	200	0006A	347	200	SK3	60	SK3&0006A	260	DINGANUN ELEM SCHOOL
		0006B	200	0006B	348	200			0006B	200	DINGANUN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0006C	200	0006C	349	200			0006C	200	DINGANUN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0006D	176	0006D	350	176			006C	176	DINGANUN ELEM. SCHOOL
	MALALIS	0007A	200	0007A	351	200	SK4	117	SK4&0007A	317	PUNUNG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0007B	200	0007B	352	265			0007B &	265	PUNUNG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0007C	65	0007C					0007C		PUNUNG ELEM. SCHOOL
	PAGALONGAN	0008A	200	0008A	353	200	SK5	52	SK5&0008A	252	PUNUNG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0008B	200	0008B	354	200			0008B	200	PUNUNG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0008C	200	0008C	355	200			0008C	200	PUNUNG ELEM. SCHOOL
		0008D	196	0008D	356	196			0008D	196	PUNUNG ELEM. SCHOOL
	BUTA (SOMALINDAO)	0009A	200	0009A	357	200	SK6	19	SK6&0009A	219	DINGANUN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0009B	200	0009B	358	200			0009B	200	DINGANUN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0009C	200	0009C	359	249			0009C &	249	DINGANUN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0009D	49	0009D					0009D		DINGANUN ELEM. SCHOOL
	TAGORANAO	0010A	200	0010A	360	200	SK7	110	SK7&0010A	310	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0010B	200	0010B	361	200			0010B	200	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0010C	200	0010C	362	200			0010C	200	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0011A	200	0011A	363	200			0011A	200	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0012A	111	0012A	364	111			0012A	111	LUMBAC ELEM. SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 7	31	5415			5415		542	27	5957	
27. Tamparan EO RASCAL MATUAN	BERUAR	0009A	200	0009A	365	200	SK7	12	SK7&0009A	212	TATAYAWAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0010A	153	0010A	366	207			0010A	207	
		0010B	54	0010B					0010B		
	BOCALA	0011A	200	0011A	367	254	SK8	51	SK8&0011A	305	BUCALA PRIM. SCHOOL
		0011B	54	0011B							
	PINDOLONAN MORIATAO SARIP	0047A	200	0047A	368	200	SK35	7	SK35&0047A	224	LUMBAC LILOD ELEM. SCHOOL
		0047B	17	0047B	369	17					
	MALIWANAG	0034A	188	0034A	370	188	SK24	9	SK24&034A	197	LUMBAC LILOD ELEM. SCHOOL
		0034B	151	0034B	371	151			0034B	151	
	MORIATAO DATU	0035A	200	0035A	372	200	SK25	16	SK25&035A	216	LUMBAC LILOD ELEM. SCHOOL
		0035B	200	0035B	373	211			0035B	211	LUMBAC LILOD ELEM SCHOOL
		0035C	11	0035C					0035C		
	RAYA MIONDAS	0050A	200	0050A	374	287	SK37	9	SK37&0050A/0050B	296	PAGALONGAN MIODAS ELEM. SCHOOL
		0050B	87	0050B							
	PICARABAWAN	0045A	200	0045A	375	200	SK34	29	SK34&045A	229	LULUBAN ELEM SCHOOL
		0046A	200	0046A	376	287			0046A	287	LULUBAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0046B	87	0046B					0046B		
	SUB TOTAL 7	13	1861			1861		104		1965	
28. Taraka EO HANDANGAN BAHAGIAN	ILIAN	0021A	200	0021A	377	293	SK21	30	SK21&0021 &0021B	323	DILABAYAN ILIAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0021B	93	0021B							
	BUCALAN	0013A	200	0013A	378	274	SK13	29	SK13&0013 &0013B	303	BUCALAN PRIM SCHOOL
		0013B	74	0013B							
	RERIK	0033A	166	0033A	379	166	SK33	14	SK33&0033	180	RIRK PRIM SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 3	5	733			733	-	73		806	
29. Tugaya	INGAD POBLACION	0001A	200	0001A	380	200	SK1	41	SK1 & 0001	241	TUGAYA CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0001B	182	0001B	381	182			0001B	182	TUGAYA CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0002A	200	0002A	382	200			0002A	200	TUGAYA CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0003A	200	0003A	381	200			0003A	200	TUGAYA CENTRAL SCHOOL
	MAYDAN	0021A	200	0021A	384	200	SK12	12	SK12&0021	212	CAGYAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0022A	197	0021B		197			&0022A	197	CAGYAN ELEM. SCHOOL
	MAPANTAO	0023A	200	0023A	385	207	SK13	21	SK13&0023A/0023BA	228	PANDLARANAO ELEM SCHOOL
		0023B	7	0023B							
	PUTAD	0030A	200	0030A	386	298	SK18	40	SK18&0030A/0030B	338	TUGAYA CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0030B	98	0030B							
		0031A	200	0031A	387	275			0031A	275	TUGAYA CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0031B	75	0031B					0031B		
	RAYA	0032A	200	0032A	388	286	SK19	25	SK19&0032A/0032B	311	TUGAYA CENTRAL SCHOOL
		0032B	86	0032B							
	SUGOD MAWATAN	0034A	188	0034A	389	287	SK21	8	SK21&0034A/0034B	295	SUGOD ELEM. SCHOOL
		0034B	99	0034B							
	BUBONG	0008A	200	0008A	390	200	SK5	17	SK5&0008A	217	BUBONG LUMBAC ELEM SCHOOL
		0009A	200	0009A	391	294			0009A	294	BUBONG LUMBAC ELEM SCHOOL
		0009B	94	0009B					0009B		
	BUADI ALAWANG	0006A	200	0006A	392	200	SK2	66	SK3&006A	266	SUGOD ELEM. SCHOOL
		0006B	125	0006B	393	125			0006B	125	
	BUADI DICO	0007A	200	0007A	394	200	SK4	43	SK4&0007A	243	
		0007B	120	0007B	395	120			0007B	120	SUGOD ELEM. SCHOOL
	GURAIN	0019A	191	0019A	396	267	SK10	2	SK10 &0023A	269	SUGOD ELEM. SCHOOL
		0019B	76	0019B							
	SUB TOTAL 10	25	3938			3938		275		4213	
30.Bacolod Kalawi/Grande	Pindulonan	0030A	200	0030A	397	200			0030A	200	PINDOLONAN ELEM. SCHOOL
		0030B	153	0026B	398	153	SK26	17	SK26&0030B	170	PINDOLONAN ELEM. SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 1	2	353			353		17		370	
31.Marawi City EO DIANA DATU-IMAM	Amito Marantao	0010A	200	0010A	399	200	SK6	95	SK6 &0010	295	AMITO ARABIC SCHOOL
		0010B	200	0010B	400	200			0010B	200	AMITO ARABIC SCHOOL
		0011A	200	0011A	401	267			0011A&	267	AMITO ARABIC SCHOOL
		0011B	67	0011B					0011B		
	Baculod Chico	0012A	200	0012A	402	200			0012A	200	TOROS ELEM. SCHOOL
		0012B	200	0012B	403	200			0012B	200	TOROS ELEM. SCHOOL
		0013A	200	0012A	404	200	SK7	57	SK7&0013A	257	TOROS ELEM. SCHOOL
	Bangco	0017A	200	0017A	405	200			0017A	200	BANGCO PRIM. SCHOOL
		0017B	200	0017B	406	200			0017B	200	BANGCO PRIM. SCHOOL
		0018A	158	0018A	407	158			SK9&0018A	158	BANGCO PRIM. SCHOOL
	Bangolo	0001A	200	0001A	408	200	SK1	26	SK1&0001A	226	PLAZA CABILI STAGE
		0001B	200	0001B	409	200			0001B	200	PLAZA CABILI STAGE
		0002A	200	0002A	410	284			0002A&	284	PLAZA CABILI STAGE
		0002B	84	0002B					0002B		
		0003A	200	0003A	411	200			0003A	200	PLAZA CABILI STAGE
	Basak malutlut	0025A	200	0025A	412	214			0025A&	214	BASAK ELEM. SCHOOL
		0025B	14	0025B					0025B		BASAK ELEM. SCHOOL
		0026A	200	0026A	413	200			0026A	200	BASAK ELEM. SCHOOL
		0027A	200	0027A	414	200	SK12	16	SK12&0027	216	BASAK ELEM. SCHOOL
	Bubong Madaya	0114A	200	0114A	415	200			0114A	200	KILALA ELEM. SCHOOL
		0114B	146	0114B	416	146	SK45	49	SK45&0114	195	KILALA ELEM. SCHOOL
		0115A	200	0115A	417	200			0115A	200	KILALA ELEM. SCHOOL
		0116A	200	0116A	418	200			0116A	200	KILALA ELEM. SCHOOL
	Bubong Marawi	0135A	200	0135A	419	200			0135A	200	AMAI PAKPAK ELEM. SCHOOL
		0135B	189	0135B	420	189			0135B	189	AMAI PAKPAK ELEM. SCHOOL
		0136A	200	0136A	421	200	SK53	17	SK53&0136	217	AMAI PAKPAK ELEM. SCHOOL
	Daguduban	0063A	200	0063A	422	200			0063A	200	LILOD MADAYA ELEM SCHOOL
		0063B	200	0063B	423	200			0063B	200	LILOD MADAYA ELEM SCHOOL
		0064A	200	0064A	424	200			0064A	200	LILOD MADAYA ELEM SCHOOL
		0064B	200	0064B	425	200	SK27	51	SK27&0064	251	LILOD MADAYA ELEM SCHOOL
		0065A	200	0065A	426	200			0065A	200	LILOD MADAYA ELEM SCHOOL
		0066A	195	0066A	427	195			0066A	195	LILOD MADAYA ELEM SCHOOL
	Datu sa Dansalan	0073A	199	0073A	428	199			0073A	199	DANGCAL ELEM SCHOOL
		0073B	155	0073B	429	155	SK30	200	SK30&0073	355	DANGCAL ELEM SCHOOL
		0074A	200	0074A	430	200	SK31	33	SK31&0074	233	DANGCAL ELEM. SCHOOL
		0075A	200	0075A	431	200			0075A	200	DANGCAL ELEM. SCHOOL
	East Marinaut	0137A	200	0137A	431	200			0137A	200	MARINAUT ELEM. SCHOOL
		0137B	179	0137B	433	179			0137B	179	MARINAUT ELEM. SCHOOL
		0138A	200	0138A	434	200	SK54	88	SK54&0138	288	MARINAUT ELEM. SCHOOL
	Emie Punud	0089A	200	0089A	435	200			0089A	200	BITO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0089B	200	0089B	436	200			0089B	200	BITO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0089C	196	0089C	437	196	SK36	116	SK36&089C	312	BITO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0090A	200	0090A	438	200			0090A	200	BITO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0090B	200	0090B	439	200			0090B	200	BITO ELEM. SCHOOL
	Guimba	0101A	200	0101A	440	200			0101A	200	GUIMBA PRIM. SCHOOL
		0102A	200	0102A	441	236	SK41	68	SK41&0102A/0102B	304	GUIMBA PRIM. SCHOOL
		0102B	36	0102B							GUIMBA PRIM. SCHOOL
		0103A	200	0103A	442	234			0103A	234	GUIMBA PRIM. SCHOOL
		0103B	34	0103B					0103B		GUIMBA PRIM. SCHOOL
	Kapantaran	0104A	200	0104A	443	268			0104A	268	MARINAUT ELEM. SCHOOL
		0104B	68	0104B					0104B		
		0105A	200	0105A	444	200	SK42	46	SK42&0105	246	MARINAUT ELEM. SCHOOL
		0105B	200	0105B	445	200			0105B	200	MARINAUT ELEM. SCHOOL
	Kilala	0106A	200	0106A	446	200			0106A	200	KILALA ELEM. SCHOOL
		0107A	200	0107A	447	200			0107A	200	KILALA ELEM. SCHOOL
		0107B	168	0107B	448	168	SK43	73	SK43&0107	241	KILALA ELEM. SCHOOL
	Mipaga	0153A	200	0153A	449	200			0153A	200	MIPAGA PRIM. SCHOOL
		0154A	193	0154A	450	193	SK61	40	SK61&0154	233	MIPAGA PRIM. SCHOOL
	Ulod Madaya	0117A	200	0117A	451	200			0117A	200	BANGGOLO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0117B	153	0117B	452	153	SK46	91	SK46&0117	244	BANGGOLO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0118A	200	0118A	453	200			0118A	200	BANGGOLO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0118B	200	0118B	454	200			0118B	200	BANGGOLO ELEM. SCHOOL
	Lumba Torus	0232A	200	0232A	455	200			0323A	200	TOROS ELEM. SCHOOL
		0233A	140	0233A	456	140	SK97	26	SK97&0233	166	TOROS ELEM. SCHOOL
	Panggao Saduc	0207A	200	0207A	457	200			207A	200	SADUC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0207B	126	0207B	458	126	SK86	87	SK86&0207B	213	SADUC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0208A	200	0208A	459	200			0208A	200	SADUC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0209A	200	0209A	460	200			0209A	200	SADUC ELEM. SCHOOL
	Pindolonan	0187A	188	0187A	461	251			0187A	251	BACOLOD ELEM. SCHOOL
		0187B	63	0187B					0187B		
		0188A	192	0188A	462	192	SK77	48	SK77&0188A	240	BACOLOD ELEM. SCHOOL
	Pugaan	0191A	200	0191A	463	281			0191A	281	PATANI ELEM. SCHOOL
		0191B	81	0191B	464				0191B		
		0192A	200	0192A	465	200	SK79	97	SK79&0192A	297	PATANI ELEM. SCHOOL
	Raya Madaya I	0122A	200	0122A	466	250			0122A	250	RAYA MADAY MADARAZA
		0122B	50	0122B					0122B		
		0123A	200	0123A	467	200	SK47	63	SK47&0123A	263	RAYA MADAY MADARAZA
		0123B	198	0123B	468	198			0123B	198	RAYA MADAY MADARAZA
		0124A	200	0124A	469	200			0124A	200	RAYA MADAY MADARAZA
		0124B	200	0124B	470	200			0124B	200	RAYA MADAY MADARAZA
	Raya Madaya II	0125A	200	0125A	471	200			0125A	200	RAYA MADAYA II PRIM SCHOOL
		0125B	135	0125B	472	135	SK49	75	SK49&0125B	210	RAYA MADAYA II PRIM SCHOOL
		0126A	200	0126A	473	200			0126A	200	RAYA MADAYA II PRIM SCHOOL
	Raya Saduc	0212A	200	0212A	474	200			0212A	200	SADUC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0212B	200	0212B	475	200	SK88	4	SK88&0212B	204	SADUC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0213A	200	0213A	476	277			0213A	277	SADUC ELEM. SCHOOL
		0213B	77	0213B					0213B		
	Sabala Manao Proper	0202A	200	0202A	477	200			0202A	200	MARAWI CENT. PILOT SCHOOL
		0202B	104	0202B	478	104	SK84	82	SK84&0202B	186	MARAWI CENT. PILOT SCHOOL
		0203A	200	0203A	479	200			0203A	200	MARAWI CENT. PILOT SCHOOL
	Poona Marantao	0189A	200	0189A	480	200			0189A	200	POONA MARANTAO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0189B	200	0189B	481	200	SK78	55	SK78&0189B	255	POONA MARANTAO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0190A	200	0190A	482	228			0190A	228	POONA MARANTAO ELEM. SCHOOL
		0190B	28	0190B					0190B		
	Toros	0230A	200	0230A	483	273			0230A	273	TOROS ELEM. SCHOOL
		0230B	73	0230B					0230B		
		0231A	200	0231A	484	200	SK96	25	SK96&0231A	225	TOROS ELEM. SCHOOL
	Tuca	0234A	200	0234A	485	200			0234A	200	BANGON ELEM. SCHOOL
		0234B	200	0234B	486	200	SK98	86	SK98&0234B	286	BANGON ELEM. SCHOOL
		0235A	200	0235A	487	200			0235A	200	BANGON ELEM. SCHOOL
	SUB TOTAL 27	91	17689			17689		1714		19403	
	GRAND TOTAL	583	97032		487	97032		7984		105473	

Total No. of Municipality & City : 31

Total No. of Barangay : 229

Total No. of Established Precincts: 583

Total No. of Registered Voters : 96491

Total No. of Grouped/Clustered Precinct: 486

Percentage of total Clustered Precinct that failed to function: 20.90%

Percentage of total barangay that failed to function: 19.78%

SK SUMMARY

Total No. of SK Precincts : 228

Total No. of SK Registered Voters : 7955

ATTY CARLITO L. RAVELO
ACTING PES for BRGY & SK ELECTION

(PDI - Nov. 30, 2007)

4TH 'ROCK' FOR NATIONAL BOOK STORE

Socorro Ramos, general manager and founding chair of National Book Store (3rd from left) is shown receiving from Vincent L. Tanjutco, president of Creative Concepts, National Book Store's ad agency, the 'Rock', the highest award given by the Catholic Mass Media for winning the best branded print ad campaign for the year. The prestigious award was conferred for the National Book Store series of ads that incorporated different book titles to illustrate different personal stories that marked the bookstore's 65th anniversary. Also shown are (from left) Gayle Certeza, creative director, Monique Francisco, associate creative director of Creative Concepts, and Christine Correa, marketing manager, National Book Store. The agency has won four 'Rock' awards for best ad campaigns since the Archbishop of Manila started conferring the distinction 29 years ago.

Woodrose celebrates 30 Dec. 6

WOODROSE MARKS ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY with a special program titled "It Takes a Family to Build a School" to highlight the school's unique relationship with parents, students, teachers and staff through the years. The program will be held on Dec. 6 at the Woodrose Gym, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the school's business office at P150 each. For every five tickets purchased, you will be entitled to an additional ticket for free. Seats are on a "first-come, first serve" basis.

MAP boosts Christmas spirit at 'Adeste Fideles 2007'

THE GLORIOUS SOUNDS OF Christmas will once again be heard as "Adeste Fideles 2007", a critically acclaimed concert, takes center stage yet again on Dec. 4 at the Plenary Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center. Following the well-received and critically acclaimed "Adeste Fideles 2006" at the Santuario de San Antonio church, this event hopes to supersede the "rousing magnificence" of the performance last year.

Consisting of some of last year's well-loved interpretations of all-time, favorite traditional Christmas carols, hymns, this year's concert will feature music specifically designed to appeal to the entire family. With its cutting-edge interpretation of classic singing style, pop, orchestral music and chorus, everybody, both young and old, will surely revel in its music that can evoke great jubilation, adoration and a celebratory feeling that only Christmas can bring.

The best in the local music firmament, many of them have received training abroad, will be performing here. Among them are Rachelle Gerodias, Karla Gutierrez, Elaine Lee, Jennifer Uy, Nolyn Cabahug, Randy Gilongo, George Yang and Sherwin Sozon.

Abdul Candao will be coming from his base in Vienna, where he teaches voice and performs in concerts and opera productions in Europe, to participate. Popular singer Vina Morales will be engaging the audience with her beautiful voice and great stage personality.

There will also be Chorus performances by award-winning choirs, including the Philippine Madrigal Singers (MADZ). The CKSC Youth Choir will repeat an all-time favorite "Carol of the Bells".

A project of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), "Adeste Fideles 2006" was enthusiastically embraced by Evelyn Singson, 2006 MAP president, when the concept of an in-church concert of traditional carols and age-old hymns sung as classics, was presented to her. This became a trailblazing in-church grand Christmas concert. Proceeds went to the parish for Typhoon Milenyo relief and rehabilitation and to MAP's Teachers Training Program in furtherance of MAP's corporate social responsibility endeavors.

Credit Suisse, an international private banking institution that staunchly supports culture and the arts, right from the outset supported "Adeste Fideles" as its main sponsor and co-presenter and has renewed its sponsorship for "Adeste Fideles 2007". MAP past president Simon Paterno is the managing director and country manager.

Current MAP president and former ambassador Albert del Rosario, with the approval of the board, requested for a repeat of the concert-event. This time the beneficiary will be PinoyME, a foundation to fight poverty through micro-finance that was organized and founded by former president Corazon Aquino, and again the Teachers Training Program. These projects are undertaken through MAP's corporate social responsibility committee headed by banker Joey Bermudez.

Tickets are also available at Ticketworld. For more information, call the MAP secretariat at 751-1149 to 52.

2GO spreads merrymaking in promo extension

IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON, THE HUSTLE and bustle of gift-giving often spreads more stress than joy. Some families have loved ones abroad or just across the region that can use a little token as a reminder of home. This Christmas, 2GO asks customers to no longer wait to send Christmas gifts or care packages.

2GO, the total logistics solutions arm of the Aboitiz Transport Group, can deliver any parcel or package through their 136 service, a promise that gives time-definite service, getting cargos to their destination within 1, 3 or 6 days. This allows the customer the freedom to choose which service is most effective and cost-efficient. The predictability of their cargo delivery helps customers efficiently plan without the worries and hassle of meeting flight and vessel departures.

2GO further enhances efficient cargo transport by also rewarding instant prizes to customers who book a day in advance in their early booking promo, which is extended until Dec. 31. The 2GO Early Booking Promo allows Metro Manila customers who avail of the 2GO 136 service to win free Sodex Ho gift certificates when they book cargo pick ups at (02) 898-QUIK or (02) 898-7845, at least one day ahead.

In the 2GO Early Booking Promo, Sodex Ho gift certificates worth P100 will be given for Day 3 and 6 cargos, while P50 worth meal and food pass GCs will be given for Day 1 cargos that are booked at least a day in advance. By availing of the Early Booking Promo, customers are not only sending gifts and packages to their loved ones but receiving gifts as well, courtesy of 2GO.

The promo is exclusively for cargo pickups and will run until the end of this year, so avail now. Prizes will be presented upon cargo pick up or may also be claimed in any 2GO outlet until Dec. 31. For more information on 2GO and its services, and for bookings, call 898-7845 or log on to www.2GO.com.ph.

ING Bank, Finex give CFOs due recognition

THE FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE of the Philippines (Finex) and ING Bank NV Manila will advocate initiatives to help finance executives become globally attuned strategic thinkers.

This is part of the commitment made by both institutions as part of their involvement in the search for the outstanding CFO of the Year. The first of its kind in the Philippines, the search for the CFO of the Year is a joint undertaking of ING Bank NV Manila and Finex.

The CFO of the Year is the result of an extensive, nationwide search for the country's exemplary finance executive. It also reaffirms the commitment of ING Bank NV Manila and Finex to give due recognition to the country's finance professionals.

Finex is the premier professional organization for finance, financial services executives, and decision makers in Philippine business, government, the academe, and professional services.

Finex's partner ING Bank N.V. Manila was set up in the Philippines in 1990 as a full banking branch of the ING Group. Headquartered in the Netherlands, the ING Group is a global financial services company with operations in more than 50 countries.

In the Philippines, ING is an acknowledged leader in banking and asset management. In 2006, ING ranked the highest in Bloomberg's top advisors for mergers and acquisitions.

According to Manuel Salak III, country manager of ING Bank NV Manila, "The chief finance officer or CFO has become more important than ever. His responsibilities have expanded to a point where there is direct correlation between a company's achievements and its financial results. Moreover, the CFO contributes substantially to the strategic planning of a company and the execution of business plans."

"As a global leader in investment, corporate banking, and asset management, ING recognizes the importance of giving due recognition to CFOs who have consistently demonstrated their value and worth to their shareholders, customers, and other industry publics," Salak stressed.

"The winning CFO of the Year serves as a role model for peers, someone who can lead colleagues through example," Salak added.

According to officials of both ING Bank and Finex, the partnership between the two institutions is highly significant. Through such initiatives as the CFO of the Year, ING Bank and Finex hope to nurture public awareness of both organizations and their relevance in the local business community.

The CFO of the Year awards night was held Nov. 29. For more information, log on to www.finex.org.ph.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

JOB Market

YOUR CONNECTION TO BETTER PEOPLE, BETTER JOBS

Provincial Government of Bukidnon

Project Reference Number *300-07-32*
Name of the Project *Supply & Delivery of Construction Materials for the Completion of third level Referral Hospital, Casisang Malaybalay City*
Location of the Project *BPH-Maramag*

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on: July 28, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BUKIDNON, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

Name of Project	Supply & Delivery of Construction Materials
Description/Location of the Project	Construction Materials for the Completion of Third Level Hospital w/ 150 bed Capacity located at Casisang, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon.
Approved Budget for the Contract	Two Million Thirty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Three Pesos & 30/100 (P2,034,933.30)
Project Completion/Duration	Twenty (20) Calendar Days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Performance Security, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

1. Advertisement	November 28-December 4, 2007	Provincial Website, GEPS, Vicinity of PGSO, PGO, PTO & BAC Office
2. Issuance of Eligibility Documents	November 28-December 5, 2007	Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City
3. Pre-bidding Conference	December 3, 2007, 10:00 A.M.	BAC Conference Room, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City
4. Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements	December 5, 2007	BAC Conference Room, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City
5. Issuance of Notice of Eligibility	December 7, 2007	Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	December 10-12, 2007	Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City
7. Opening of Bids Deadline for Submission of Bids	December 17, 2007, 10:00 A.M.; 9:30 A.M.	BAC Conference Room, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable Bid documents fee in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) / project. For inquiry, please call Ms. Rolyne L. Hernandez @ Telephone Nos. 088-221-2537 and 088-221-4820.

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved:

(Sgd.) JOSEFREDIE F. FLORES
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Nov. 30, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes St. cor. N. Reyes St. (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc, Manila hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Items to Bid and Description	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
Rental of Photocopying Machines	Minimum of 17 units	P 308,112.00 at P0.49 per copy	December 6, 2007 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 20, 2007 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P .500.00

Only bidders registered with the Electronic Procurement Service for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at cost by interested bidders starting on December 3, 2007 from the Office of the BAC Secretariat.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids to determine whether the bidder concerned complies with and is responsive to all the requirements and conditions for eligibility.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" (GPRA), and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Very truly yours,

orig. signed
LEONOR T. ROSERO
Chairperson

(PDI–Nov. 30, 2007)

Jollibee campaign wins gold as one of Asia's best

JOLLIBEE'S "BITUING WALANG Ningning Bee-2-Win" campaign won one of the eight gold awards at this year's Asian Marketing Effectiveness Awards in Singapore, besting more than 500 entries from the region. The win for Most Effective Use of Sponsorship showcased the innovative joint efforts of Universal McCann Philippines and its client, Jollibee, in creative media management that successfully engages consumers and increases their brand support.

A tie-up with ABS-CBN, the campaign strategy took into consideration Filipinos' heavy patronage of telenovelas, integrating Jollibee into the storyline and setting of top-rated soap "Bituing Walang Ningning" and embarking on a first-of-its-kind drama series taping involving a live concert with a real audience of more than 15,000 SMS promo participants.

"The campaign was a breakthrough for us in a number of ways. We were able to create a seamless integration of content and brand that was natural and highly credible. The audience not only embraced it but actively participated in the experience," said UM managing director Venus Navalta.

Apart from a 13-percent increase in Jollibee patronage, the campaign yielded high awareness levels, over 300,000 SMS entries, and increased program ratings.

Organized by Media Magazine, one of the longest-running publications covering media and marketing news in Asia-Pacific, the Asian Marketing Effectiveness Awards is touted as the only regional marketing awards that highlight real results.

The winning team was composed of UM vice president Malu Vasallo, assistant vice president Oyie Pingol, UM Connections vice president Maita Consulta, media directors Adel Tuason and Reena Francisco, buying director Mitch Ramos, media strategists Tin Borillo and Pam Catindig, media planners Regi Lagao, Lori Chua-Ramos and Tin Obusan, Jollibee's former marketing vice president Inez S. Reyes, marketing manager Carol Kison-Estacio, and brand managers Kay Segismundo and Ever Español.

UM's and Jollibee's "Bee-2-Win" also won a silver for Best Innovative and Integrated Media Campaign at the 2nd Integrated Marketing Communications Effectiveness Awards.

WINNING cast and crew. Executives from ABS-CBN, Jollibee, and Universal McCann celebrate the gold win of the 'Bituing Walang Ningning Bee-2-Win' campaign in the recent Asian Marketing Effectiveness Awards. Joining the group are the faces of the Jollibee campaigns, young stars Sarah Geronimo, Kim Chiu, and Gerald Anderson.

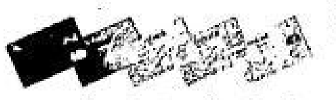
Metrobank

ABENSON

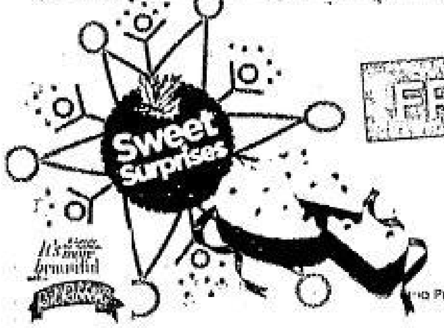
ABENSON
Wish & Win
RAFFLE PROMO
Get a Chance to Win
A Brand-New TOYOTA VIOS
P500,000 SHOPPING SPREES

Guaranteed 5 Winners of a shopping spree for Metrobank cardholders!

SEE FLYERS FOR DETAILS. *ACTUAL COLOR OF CAR PRIZE MAY VARY FROM CAR COLOR SHOWN. Promo period is November 9, 2007 to January 11, 2008. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.4748 Series of 2007.



Metrobank Credit Cards



FREE Red Ribbon Cake!

WHEN YOU USE YOUR METROBANK CREDIT CARD FOR A MINIMUM P15,000 SINGLE RECEIPT INSTALLMENT PURCHASE

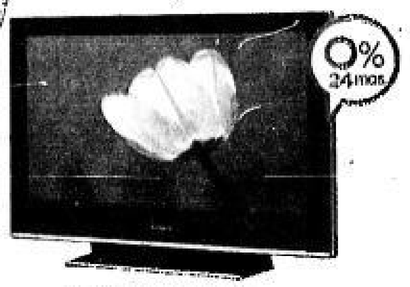
Gift Certificate is valid for dine in and take out in any Red Ribbon Luzon outlet.

Split transaction for single item purchase is not allowed. Red Ribbon is valid for one (1) regular sized round cake. Choose from specific flavors.

Promo Period: November 9, 2007 to December 31, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.4742 Series of 2007

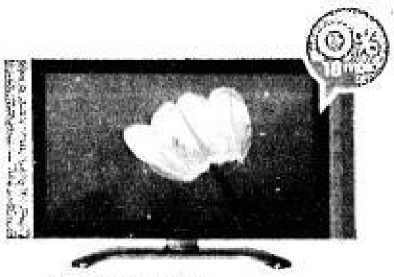
Go LCD!

LCD



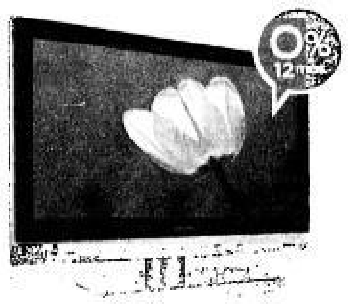
₱5,624.58/mo.

SONY KLV 40V300A
40" LCD TV; 8,000:1
Contrast Ratio
SRP P134,990



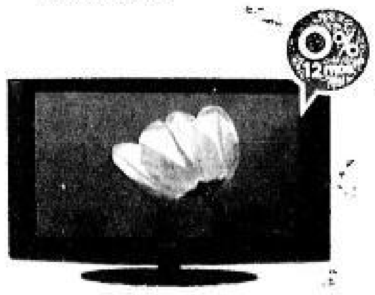
₱3,222.11/mo.

SHARP LA-32BX6M
32: LCD TV
FREE BRACKET PLUS ADD 5,000 FOR A HOME THEATER
SRP P57,998



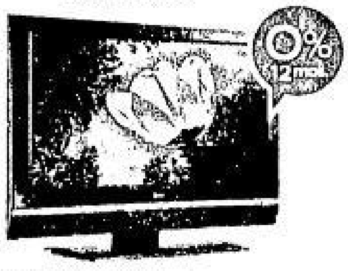
₱6,665/mo.

PHILIPS 37PFL7422
37" LCD TV
WITH 5,000 PRODUCT DISCOUNT
SRP P79,980



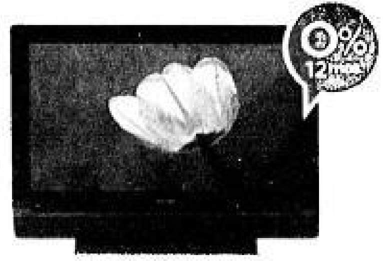
₱3,991.67/mo.

SAMSUNG LA 32S81 32" LCD TV; 7000:1 Contrast Ratio
ADD 5,000 FOR A HT-X20
SRP OLD: 54,900
New: P47,900



₱4,999.92/mo.

LG 32LC4R 32" LCD TV
8000:1 Contrast Ratio
FREE HT-202SF
SRP P59,999



₱3,998.33/mo.

PHILIPS 32TA2800
32" LCD TV
FREE HTS-3,000
SRP P47,980

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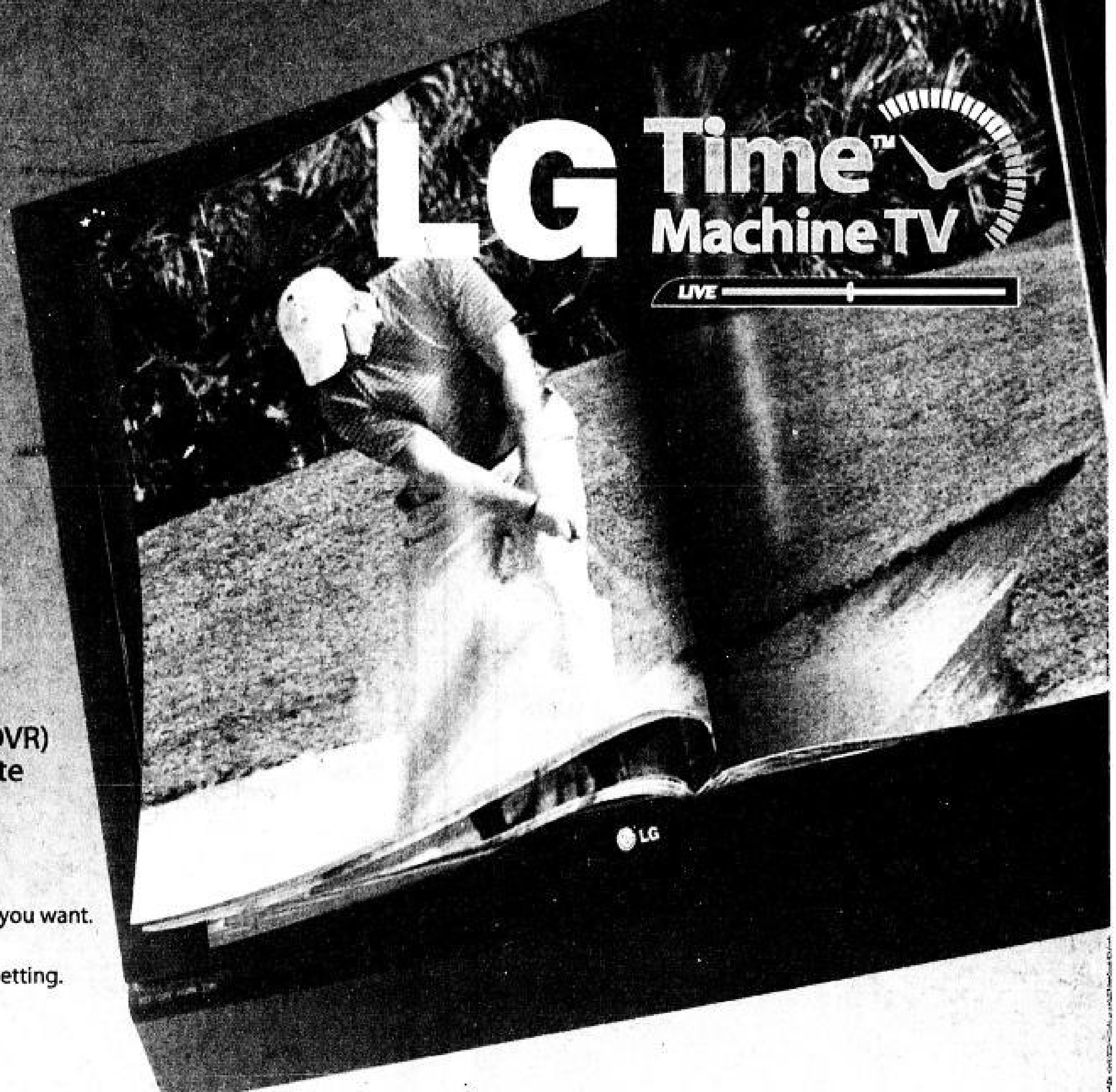

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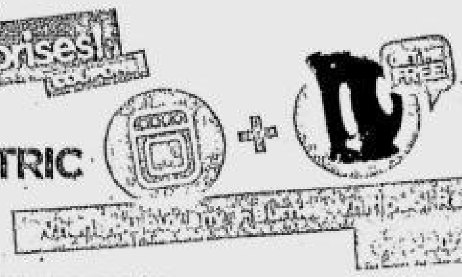
SHOP NOW AT ANY ABENSON BRANCH NEAR YOU! **BATANGAS** Bay City Mall (043) 723-6790/0834 • Fiesta World Mall Lipa (043) 757-3142 **BOHOL** Island City Mall (038) 501-8206/0934 **BULACAN** Waltermart Plaridel (044) 795-3271-73 **CAVITE** Emperor Mall Rosario (046) 438-5450 and 57 • Lotus Mall Imus (046) 515-5749 & 51 • Robinsons Place Imus (046) 471-8020/30 • Waltermart Carmona (046) 430-2702-03 • Waltermart Dasmariñas (046) 416-2104 & 07 • Waltermart General Trias (046) 419-1137 **CABANATUAN** NE Pacific Mall (044) 940-1481-82 **CUBAO** New Farmer's Plaza 911-1103/1494 **GAPAN** Waltermart Gapan (044) 486-7647 **KALOOKAN** Ever Grand Central 362-3346/5246 **LAGUNA** Ayala Pavilion Mall Biñan (049) 411-4510-11 • Ultimart San Pablo (049) 562-7034 • Waltermart Calamba Telefax: 520-8209 • Waltermart Sta. Rosa (049) 534-4609 & 10 **LAS PIÑAS** Pamplona 872-4320/0577 **LEGASPI** LCC Mall (052) 480-7949 • Pacific Mall (052) 480-6266/820-4066 **LUCENA** Pacific Mall (042) 373-0443 **MAKATI** Greenbelt-4 750-2315 • Glorietta-1 812-7745/9425 • Waltermart Makati 812-2882/1352 **MALABON** Malabon Citisquare 287-0479/0344 **MANDALUYONG** Sheridan 631-5180/6161 loc 122 **MANILA** Harrison Plaza 521-0560 & 63 • Puregold Tayuman 252-5786-87 • Robinsons Ermita 536-7914 **MARIKINA** Riverbank Mall 941-3811/5003 **MUNTINLUPA** Alabang 850-0850/8914 • Filinvest Festival Mall 842-2540/2051 • Metropolis 809-8174/8921 **NAGA** LCC Metro (054) 473-6003 **ORTIGAS** Robinsons Galleria 632-3101/05 • Shangri-La 655-9017 to 19 • St. Francis Square 633-1162 to 64 **PASIG** Puregold Dutiny 641-4452 • Ever Gotesco Pasig 650-6643-44 **PAMPANGA** Nepo Mall Angeles (045) 880-9080 • Puregold Dau (045) 892-4295 **PARAÑAQUE** Jaka Plaza 829-9325/2080-87 • Pearl Plaza 851-8401 & 03 **PASAY** Metropoint Mall 833-7829/8136 **QUEZON CITY** Trinoma 901-3050 to 52 • Circle C Congressional 927-9390/9520 • Eastwood Libis 687-1013/1698 • Ever Gotesco Commonwealth 951-4678/8991 • Fairview Center Mall 939-7006 • Puregold Commonwealth 932-2932/3806 • Puregold E. Rodriguez 784-1254/1313 • SM City North Edsa 920-9151 to 53 • Waltermart E. Rodriguez 722-7263 **RIZAL** Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Phase1 645-0402/0404 • Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Phase2 681-9301 to 05 **SAN JUAN** Greenhills 721-1710/0500 **TAGUIG** Market Market 886-6620/6491 **TARLAC** Plaza Luisita (045) 985-1245 **VALENZUELA** Puregold Valenzuela 277-0556/58/59

NOW OPEN: PUREGOLD TAYTAY

2.

Holiday Surprises!



ABENSON

FREE ELECTRIC KETTLE

KYOWA E- KETTLE
SKU NO 6-1674

PLEASE PRESENT THIS COUPON TO AVAIL OF PROMO.
VALID ON CASH & CARD TRANSACTIONS.

Promo period is from November 9 to December 31, 2007 Per DTI- NCR Permit No. 4740 series of 2007

Strictly one (1) coupon per transaction. Cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions. Coupon is non-convertible to cash and non-changeable to other products

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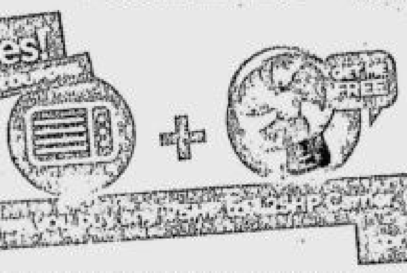
Holiday Surprises!



ABENSON

FREE ELECTRIC FAN

LG Room Airconditioner

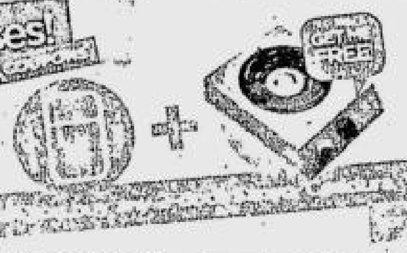
NIKON NDF16-B7 SKU NO. 02761

PLEASE PRESENT THIS COUPON TO AVAIL OF PROMO. *Valid on cash transactions only for LG.
VALID ON CASH & CARD TRANSACTIONS FOR CARRIER AND CONDURA.

Promo period is from November 9 to December 31 2007 Per DTI- NCR Permit No. 4740 series of 2007.

Strictly one (1) coupon per transaction. Cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions. Coupon is non-convertible to cash and non-changeable to other products.

Holiday Surprises!



ABENSON

FREE GAS STOVE

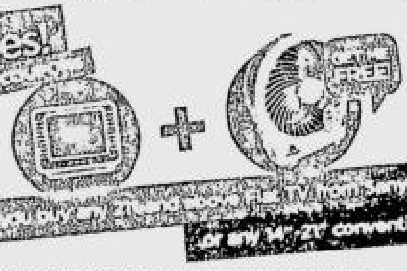
ASAHI GS446 STOVE
SKU NO 6-1677

PLEASE PRESENT THIS COUPON TO AVAIL OF PROMO. *Valid on cash transactions only for LG.
VALID ON CASH & CARD TRANSACTIONS FOR SANYO, CONDURA, WHIRLPOOL AND ELECTROLUX.

Promo period is from November 9 to December 31 2007 Per DTI- NCR Permit No. 4740 series of 2007

Strictly one (1) coupon per transaction. Cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions. Coupon is non-convertible to cash and non-changeable to other products.

Holiday Surprises!



ABENSON

FREE 7" MINI FAN

[illegible] Sanyo, TCL, JVC, Philips, or LG* or any 14"-21" conventional TV from Sanyo or Sharp

HANABISHI HTF701 FAN
SKU NO 87020

PLEASE PRESENT THIS COUPON TO AVAIL OF PROMO. *Valid on cash transactions only for LG
VALID ON CASH & CARD TRANSACTIONS FOR SHARP, SANYO, TCL, JVC AND PHILIPS

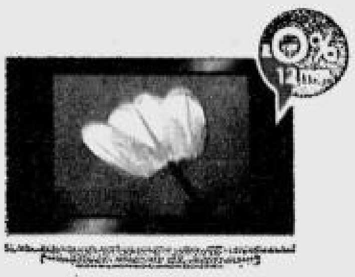
Promo period [illegible] November 9 to December [illegible] NCR Permit [illegible] 4740 series of

Strictly one (1) coupon per transaction. Cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions. Coupon is non-convertible to cash and non-changeable to other products

Visuals, specifications, prices, & promotions may change without prior notice. 0% applicable provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank terms and conditions. Prices applicable until December 31, 2007.

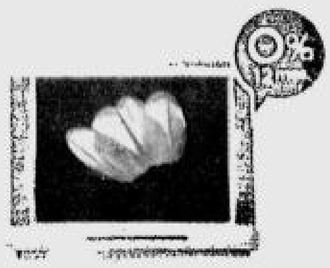
GO FLAT!

TV



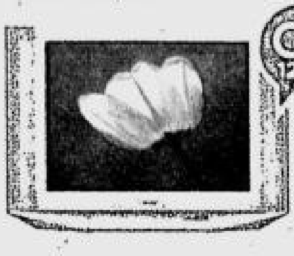
₱2,249.17 /mo.

JVC 29ST 27 29" Super Slim Flat TV
WITH FREE TV RACK!
ADD P1990 FOR A DVD PLAYER
SRP P26,990



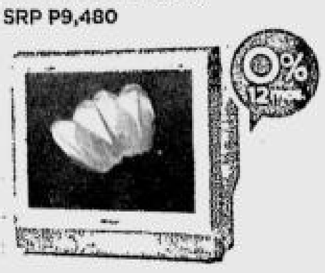
₱790 /mo.

PHILIPS 21PT5006 21" Flat TV;
Full AV Stereo, DVD Output
WITH FREE TV RACK!
SRP P9,480



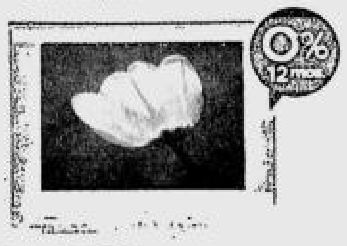
₱1,832.50 /mo.

SONY KV SZ292N60
29" Flat TV, MTS Stereo
ADD P500 FOR FREE TV RACK
ADD P1999 FOR A DVD PLAYER
SRP P21,990



₱666.50 /mo.

SHARP 21V-FR75M 21" Flat TV;
181 Channel, Compatible Tuner
ADD P999 FOR A DVD
PLAYER - CASH BASIS ONLY
SRP P7,998

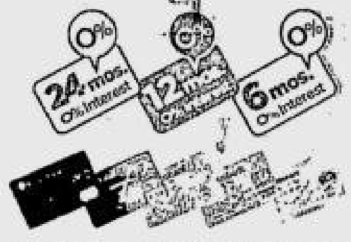


₱1,415.83 /mo.

JVC AV-29BA16 29" Flat TV
Closed Caption
Sound Plus 60/AV Stereo
SRP P16,990

₱5995

SANYO 21" Conventional TV
ST-21CE1/V



Enjoy the lightness of the holidays with **0% Interest Installment** using your Metrobank Credit Card!

Metrobank Credit Cards

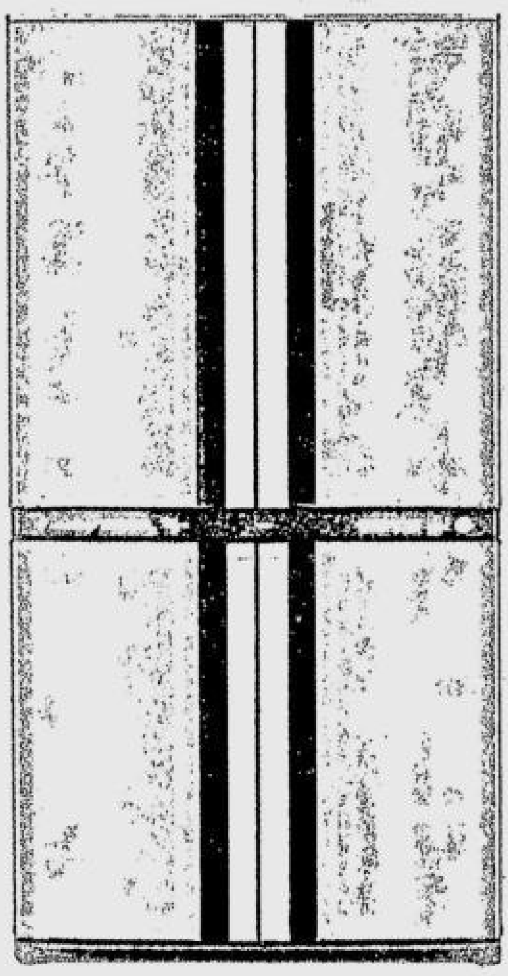
SHARP

Hail to the Queen

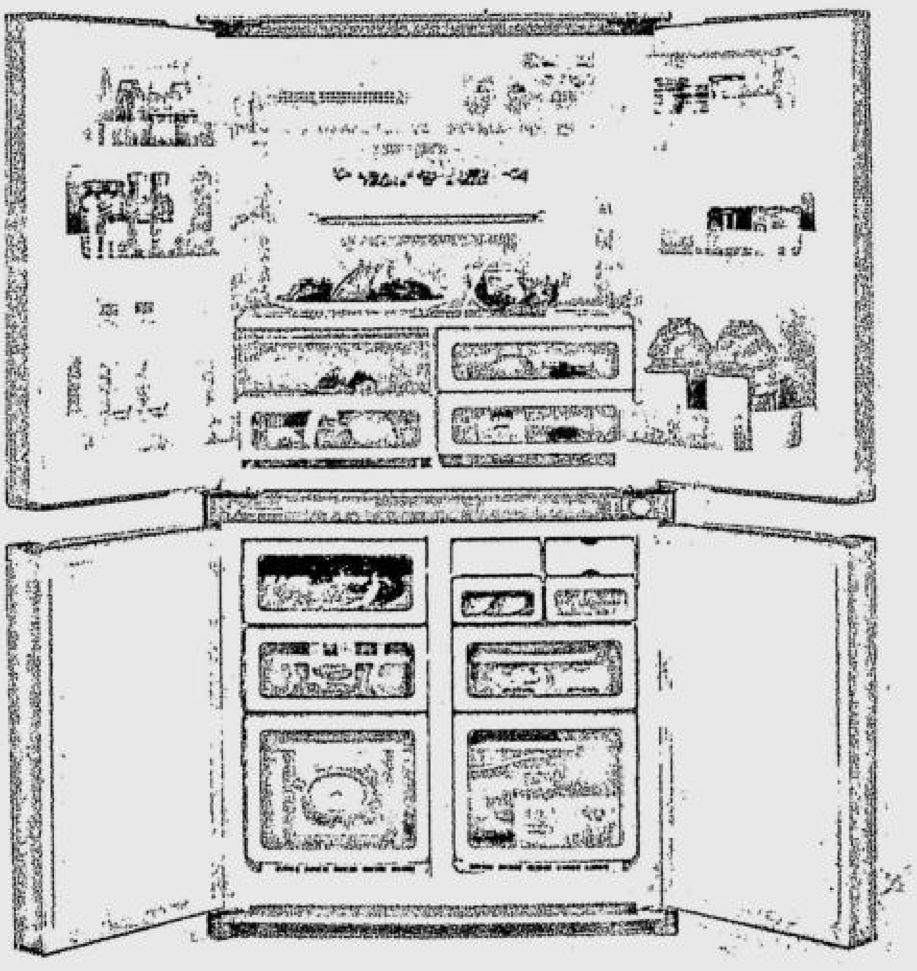
Sharp brings you the Queen Refrigerator Series with Plasmacluster Ion System.

Keep food fresh longer with Plasmacluster™

The Plasmacluster Ion System deactivates bacteria and mold spores by releasing positive and negative ions into the air. Plasmacluster Technology is a trademark of Sharp.



SJ-F75PS-SL



Plasmacluster TECHNOLOGY | DOUBLE DEODORIZER | NO CENTER PILLAR | UNIQUE FOUR DOOR SYMMETRICAL | Japanese Technology

SHARP DIRECT COOLING Refrigerator

(Single Door)

0% for 12 months

*Buy any size or model of **Sharp Direct Cooling Refrigerators and avail of the 0% interest for 12 months*** (credit card holders) and you get a free Mighty Ref Rack (Cash and credit card holders).*

* Subject to bank approval.

SHARP NO FROST Refrigerator

(Two-Door)

0% for 12 months

*Buy any size or model of **Sharp No Frost Refrigerators and avail of the 0% interest for 12 months*** (credit card holders) and you get a free Premium Ref Rack (Cash and credit card holders).*

* Subject to bank approval.

SHARP QUEEN SERIES Refrigerator

(Double French Door)

0% for 12 months

*Buy any size or model of **Sharp Queen** Series (French Door) and avail of the **0% interest for 12 months*** (credit card holders).*

* Subject to bank approval.

Add P1,498 and you get a Sharp Microwave (model: R-220L/Cash and credit card holder).

Promo period: October 26 - December 31, 2007. See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5442. Series of 2007.

Celebrate A Season of Wishful Thinking, Gift Giving & **Smart Shopping!**

ABENSON

Digicams

₱1,582.92 /mo.
OLYMPUS FE280
8 Megapixel, 3x Optical Zoom, 2.5" LCD screen
SRP P18,995

₱2,245.83 /mo.
CANON IXUS 950IS
8.0 Megapixel, 4x Optical Zoom with Optical Image Stabilizer
SRP P26,950

₱2,916.58 /mo.
SONY T200
8.1 Megapixel, 5x Optical Zoom, 3.5" touch screen LCD
SRP P34,999

Treo

₱2,066.66 /mo.
PALMONE Treo 680
Quad band, Bluetooth 1.2 wireless technology, Infrared (IR)
SRP P24,800

Videocams

₱2,333.25 /mo.
SONY DVD608
2.5' LCD Screen, 40x Optical Zoom
SRP P27,999

₱2,291.67 /mo.
CANON DC210
2.7' LCD Screen, 35x Optical Zoom
SRP P27,500

₱2,833.25 /mo.
SONY DCR SR42
2.5" LCD Screen, 40x Optical Zoom, 30 GB Hard Drive
SRP P33,999

₱4,999.92 /mo.
SONY HDR HCS
10x Optical Zoom, 2.7" Wide Clear LCD
SRP P59,999

iPods

₱957.50 /mo.
APPLE iPod Nano
8GB, Holds 1,000 songs, up to 24 hours playback
SRP P11,490

₱374.17 /mo.
APPLE iPod Shuffle
1 GB, Holds up to 240 songs
SRP P4,490

0% 12 mos.

0% INTEREST

on Installment Purchases

PARA SIGURADO!

0% 24 mos. 0% Interest
0% 12 mos. 0% Interest
0% 6 mos. 0% Interest

Enjoy the lightness of the holidays with **0% Interest Installment** using your Metrobank Credit Card! **Shop now at Abenson!**

Visuals, specifications, prices, & promotions may change without prior notice. 0% applicable provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank terms and conditions.

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10 Delightful Years IN THE PHILIPPINES

Canon

Delighting You Always

0% interest for 12 mos.*

Shoot, Travel and Fly this Holiday Season.

Promo runs from October 23, 2007 to January 15, 2008

MiniDV Camcorders

ZR800
- 35x Optical Zoom with Electronic Image Stabilizer
- 1000x Digital Zoom
- 16:9 widescreen LCD
- 2.7" LCD screen

SRP: Php 19,950

ZR830
- 35x Optical Zoom with Electronic Image Stabilizer
- 1000x Digital Zoom
- 16:9 widescreen LCD
- 2.7" LCD screen

SRP: Php 22,950

ZR850
- 35x Optical Zoom with Electronic Image Stabilizer
- 1000x Digital Zoom
- 16:9 widescreen LCD
- 2.7" LCD screen

SRP: Php 27,950

Free: tripod, DV bag, 1 miniDV tape, and 1 Cebu Pacific round trip ticket to top travel destinations.

PhotoDV
FORM & FUNCTION PERFECTED

DVD Camcorders

DC210
- 35x Optical Zoom with Electronic Image Stabilizer
- 1000x Digital Zoom
- True Hi-Res 16:9 Widescreen Mode
- Dual Layer Recording

SRP: Php 27,500

DC220
- 35x Optical Zoom with Electronic Image Stabilizer
- 1000x Digital Zoom
- True Hi-Res 16:9 Widescreen Mode
- Dual Layer Recording

SRP: Php 3[illegible],500

DC230
- 35x Optical Zoom with Electronic Image Stabilizer
- 1000x Digital Zoom
- True Hi-Res 16:9 Widescreen Mode
- Dual Layer Recording

SRP: Php 35,950

Free: tripod, DV bag, 1 DVDR-DL, and up to 2 Cebu Pacific round trip tickets to top travel destinations. DC230 also comes with 1 512 mB miniSD card.

Free: tripod, DV bag, 1 DVDR-DL, 1 512 mB miniSD card and up to 3 Cebu Pacific round trip tickets to top travel destinations.

DC50
- 10x zoom with Super Range Optical Image Stabilizer
- 5.39 megapixel CCD
- 1/2.7 CCD sensor (Bayer)
- True Hi-Res 16:9 Widescreen Mode
- Dual Layer Recording

SRP: Php [illegible]

1920x1080 CMOS CAPTURE High Definition Video Camcorders

HV20
- 10x Optical zoom with Super Range Optical Image Stabilizer
- 2.96 Megapixel (1920x1080 True Full HD CMOS Sensor)
- Cinematic quality recording with 24p CINE Frame Rate

SRP: Php [illegible]

Free: tripod, [illegible] and up to 3 Cebu Pacific round trip tickets to top travel destinations.

HR10 AVCHD DVD
- 10x Optical zoom with Super Range Optical Image Stabilizer
- 2.96 Megapixel (1920x1080 True Full HD CMOS Sensor)
- Cinematic quality recording with 24p CINE Frame Rate

SRP: Php [illegible]

Free: tripod, DV bag, 3 DVDR-DL and up to 3 Cebu Pacific round trip tickets to top travel destinations.

HG10 AVCHD HDD
- 10x Optical zoom with Super Range Optical Image Stabilizer
- 2.96 Megapixel (1920x1080 True Full HD CMOS Sensor)
- Cinematic quality recording with 24p CINE Frame Rate

SRP: Php [illegible]

Free: tripod, DV bag, [illegible] 1 Cebu Pacific round trip ticket to top travel destinations.

HV10
- 10x Optical zoom with Super Range Optical Image Stabilizer
- 2.96 Megapixel (1920x1080 True Full HD CMOS Sensor)
- DIGIC DV II
- RGB Bayer Filter Placement

SRP: Php [illegible]

Free: tripod, DV bag, [illegible] and up to 3 Cebu Pacific round trip tickets to top travel destinations.

To avail of the free ticket fare, call Lakbay.Net at (02) 635-1892, (02) 635-4212 or (02) 635-9684.

Purchase a participating Canon PhotoDV camcorder and get a free roundtrip Cebu Pacific ticket to 1 of 10 destinations.

Destinations to or from Manila include: Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Bacolod, Cebu, Dumaguete, Boracay, Palawan, Ilocos, Bicol, Bohol

Depends on seat class & destination

LAKBAY.net CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

Canon ImageNation HOLIDAY!

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2/F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St.
Makati City • Tel. 884 9000 Fax 810 9797 • E-mail: info@canon.com.ph or www.canon.com.ph

*Available for credit cards of participating dealers. See catalogue and flyer for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3699, Series of 2007.

Gifts Below ₱3000

₱2,998
FUJIDENZO WS-55JC / 5.5kg
Washing Machine

₱2,698
DOWELL IGF-522
Fondue Grill

₱2,698
SHARP QTCD 700W
CD/Cassette Player

₱2,148
DOWELL WDT-70B
Hot & Cold Dispenser

1,999
CREATIVE Zen Stone 1GB MP3 Player

₱2,499
LG DV-246K DVD Player
Super Slim Design
Component / S-Video

1,990
PHILIPS AZ-1022
Portable CD Cassette

₱1,998
DOWELL TB-7503
Turbo Broiler

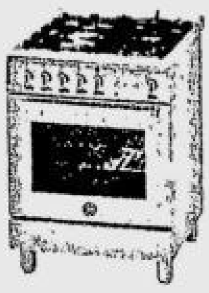
1,898
PHILIPS HD7448
Coffee Maker, 10 cups

₱1,995
ELECTROLUX Z209
Vacuum Cleaner
Rustic Copper

1,290
PANASONIC KX-TC2100OPH
Cordless Phone

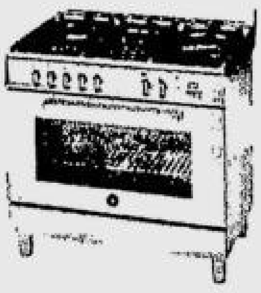
₱1,790
PHILIPS SA2315
1GB MP3 Player, Voice Recording, Fast download from PC via USB 2.0

The Italian Way



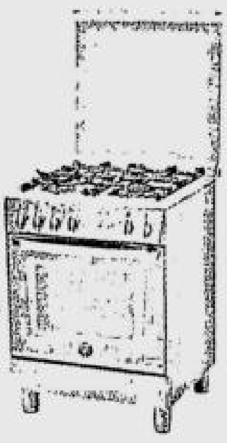
V64C 21X

Size: 60 cm X 60 cm
Worktop: 3 Gas Burners + 1 Triple ring burner
Oven: Gas oven w/ thermostat and electric grill
Special Features: 1 oven grid + 1 drip plate; One-touch ignition for oven & top
General Features: Thermobloc safety device



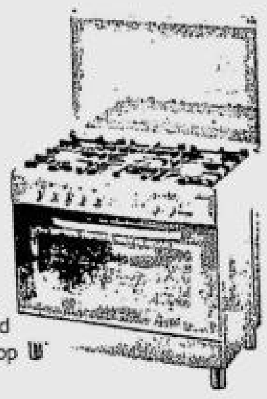
V95C 21 X

Size: 90 cm X 60 cm
Worktop: 4 Gas Burners + 1 Triple ring burner
Oven: Gas oven w/ thermostat and electric grill
Special Features: 1 oven grid + 1 drip plate; One-touch ignition for oven & top
General Features: Thermobloc safety device



H64C 71 X

Size: 60 cm X 60 cm
Worktop: 3 Gas Burners + 1 Triple ring burner
Oven: Gas oven + electric grill / fan assisted
Special Features: 1 oven grid + 1 drip plate w/ grid; One-touch ignition for oven & top; Thermobloc full safety device

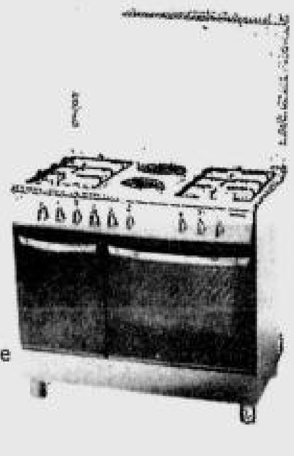


H95C 61 X

Size: 90 cm X 60 cm
Worktop: 4 Gas Burners + 1 Triple ring burner
Oven: Electric multi-function 9 settings
Special Features: 1 oven grid + 1 drip plate w/ grid; One-touch ignition for oven & top; Thermobloc full safety device

D85C 21 X

Size: 80 cm X 50 cm
Worktop: 4 Gas Burners + 1 Triple ring burner
Oven: Gas oven with thermostat and ignition
Special Features: 1 oven grid + 1 drip plate; Thermobloc full safety device



DP982 61 X

Size: 90 cm X 60 cm
Worktop: 3 Gas Burners + 1 Triple ring burner + 2 elecrtric hot plates
Oven: Electric multifunction 9 settings
Special Features: 1 oven grid + 1 drip plate; Thermobloc full safety device

DIAMANTE laGERMANIA
Where Food is Life

For inquiries contact 564 1521 to 28
or visit us at www.lagermania.com.ph

SHOWROOMS: The Kitchen Gallery, 5/F Bridgeway SM Megamall • Escolta corner Nueva Sts., Binondo, Manila • Ground Level SM City Cebu, Reclamation, Cebu City • 2nd Floor Anson's Emporium, Pasay Road, Makati City

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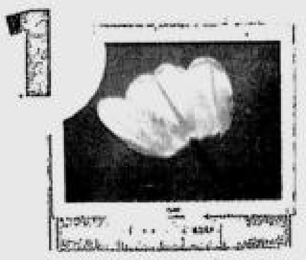
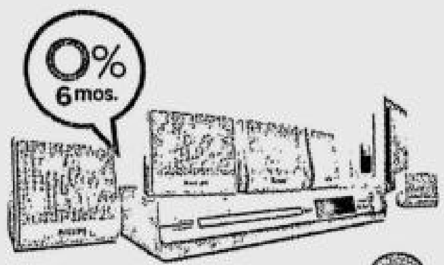
ABENSON

TOP 12 Christmas Giveaways

1



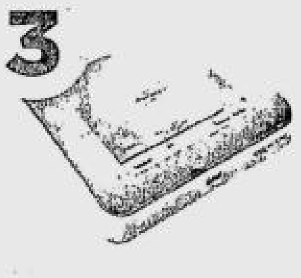
₱6,999
LG 21FB3RB / 21" inch TV, High picture quality with exquisite design **WITH FREE TV RACK!**



0% 6 mos.

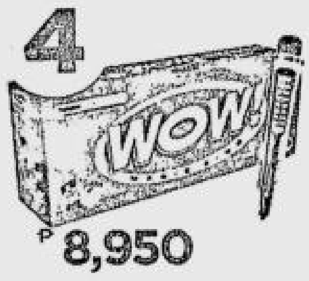
₱1,665 /mo.
2
PHILIPS HTS-3000 CD/DVD Player; 5.1 Speaker
SRP P9,990

3



₱1,990
PHILIPS DVD Player DVP 4050

4

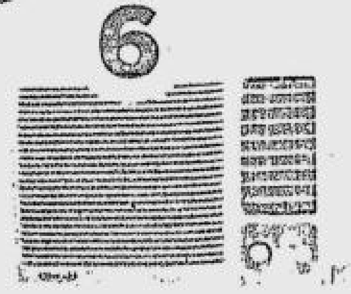


₱8,950
WOW Magic Sing ED 9000

5

₱3,198
SHARP Washing Machine ES470W / 4.7kg Single Tub

6

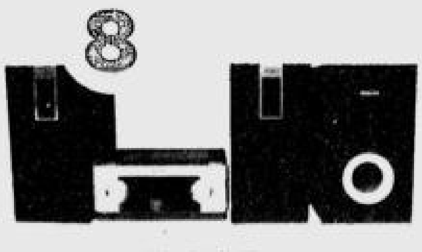


₱9,048
CONDURA Aircon WCOND006EA 0.5 HP, Manual

7

₱10,999
SONY Cybershot DSC S700 7.2 Mega Pixels, 3x Zoom 2.4" LCD

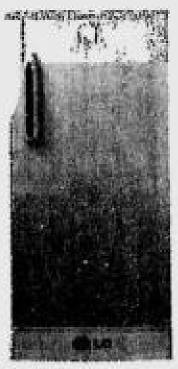
8



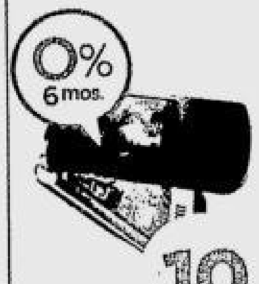
₱5,990
PHILIPS DVD Micro Component / MCD-139B

Visuals, specifications, prices, & promotions may change without prior notice. 0% applicable provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank terms and conditions

9



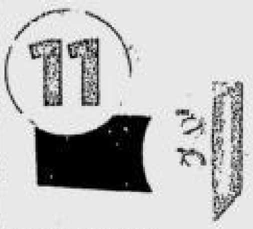
₱9,998
LG U171CLS Refrigerator / 6 cu ft



0% 6 mos.

10

₱14,500
MOTOROLA V3XX 1.3 Mega Pixels Camera, MP3, SMS, MMS, VGA Call Camera



11

₱2,368
FUJIDENZO SM-18 S/W 0.7 CF / **MANUAL**

12

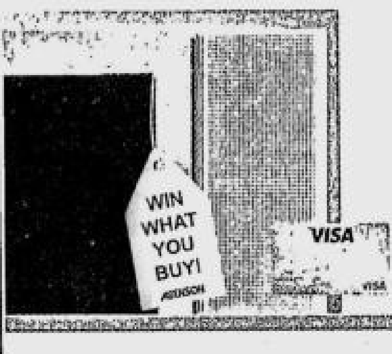
₱3,498
DOWELL Air Cooler ARC-90

Asahi

Experience Quality. Experience Asahi.

Masaya ang Pasko... Kung Asahi ang Regalo!

Here are the 15 Lucky Visa Cardholders who won back what they spent



FIRST RAFFLE DRAW
(August 24, 2007)

ABENSON WINNERS
1. Ester Losantos
   HSBC Visa Cardholder
2. Erello S. Bunlac
   Citibank Visa cardholder
3. Rowena Moarip
   Unionbank Visa Cardholder

ELECTROWORLD WINNERS
1. Jennifer Trinidad
   Standard Chartered Visa cardholder
2. Charito M. Isidro
   Citibank Visa Cardholder

SECOND RAFFLE DRAW
(September 11, 2007)

ABENSON WINNERS
1. Joy P. Agra
   Citibank Visa cardholder
2. Yolanda Gavanzo
   Citibank Visa Cardholder
3. Josephine Regalado
   AIG Visa Cardholder

ELECTROWORLD WINNERS
1. Lorie Sampang
   HSBC Visa Cardholder
2. Victor Solas
   Citibank Visa Cardholder

THIRD RAFFLE DRAW
(October 9, 2007)

ABENSON WINNERS
1. Yolanda Clemente
   Standard Chartered Visa Cardholder
2. Hermel Dayola
   AIG Visa Cardholder
3. Marilyn Dappl
   HSBC Visa Cardholder

ELECTROWORLD WINNERS
1. Lourdes D. Daez
   Citibank Visa Cardholder
2. Alfonso Tizon
   AIG Visa Cardholder

VISA
All it takes

Watch out for our next Visa promo!

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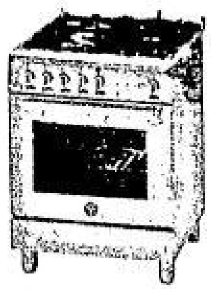
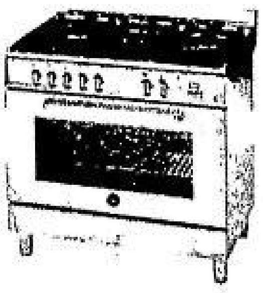
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3560 Series of 2007

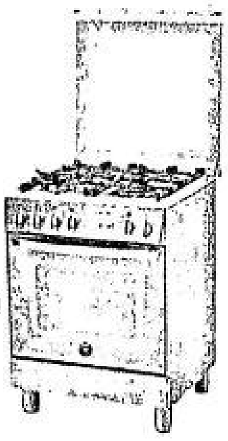
The Italian Way



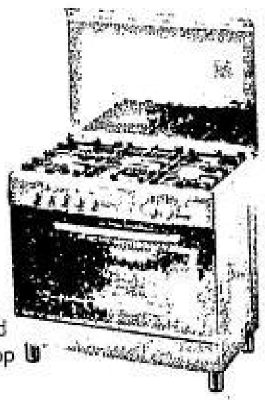
V64C 21X
Size: 60 cm X 60 cm
Worktop: 3 Gas Burners + 1
Triple ring burner
Oven: Gas oven w/ thermostat
and electric grill
Special I oven grid + I drip plate
Features: One-touch ignition for oven & top
General
Features: Thermobloc safety device



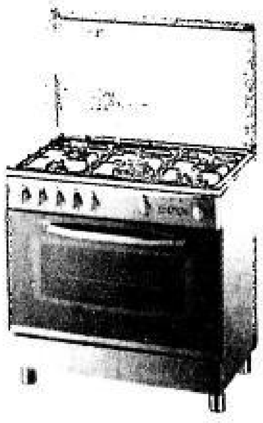
V95C 21 X
Size: 90 cm X 60 cm
Worktop: 4 Gas Burners + 1
Triple ring burner
Oven: Gas oven w/ thermostat
and electric grill
Special I oven grid + I drip plate
Features: One-touch ignition for oven & top
General
Features: Thermobloc safety device



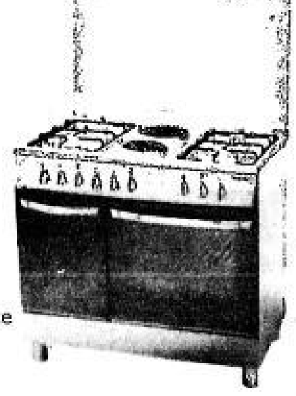
H64C 71 X
Size: 60 cm X 60 cm
Worktop: 3 Gas Burners + 1
Triple ring burner
Oven: Gas oven + electric grill / fan assisted
Special I oven grid + I drip plate w/ grid
Features: One-touch ignition for oven & top
Thermobloc full safety device



H95C 61 X
Size: 90 cm X 60 cm
Worktop: 4 Gas Burners + 1
Triple ring burner
Oven: Electric multi-function 9 settings
Special I oven grid + I drip plate w/ grid
Features: One-touch ignition for oven & top
Thermobloc full safety device



D85C 21 X
Size: 80 cm X 50 cm
Worktop: 4 Gas Burners + 1
Triple ring burner
Oven: Gas oven with thermostat
and ignition
Special 1-oven grid + 1 drip plate
Features: Thermobloc full safety device



DP982 61 X
Size: 90 cm X 60 cm
Worktop: 3 Gas Burners + 1
Triple ring burner +
2 elecrtric hot plates
Oven: Electric multifunction 9
settings
Special I oven grid + I drip plate
Features: Thermobloc full safety device

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Where Food is Life

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or visit us at www.lagermania.com.ph

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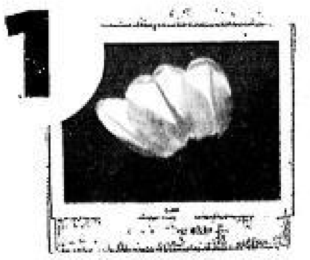
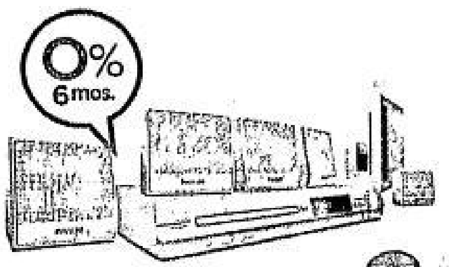
TOP 12
Christmas Giveaways

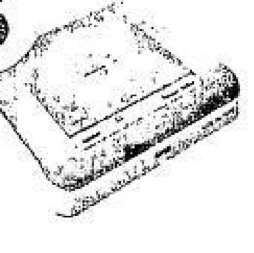
ABENSON



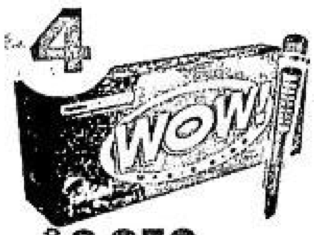
1
₱ 6,999
LG 21FB3RB / 21" inch TV, High picture quality with exquisite design **WITH FREE TV RACK!**



0% 6 mos.
2
₱ 1,665 /mo.
PHILIPS HTS-3000
CD/DVD Player; 5.1 Speaker
SRP P9,990



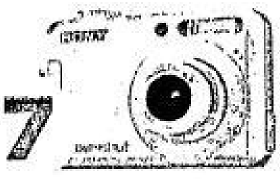
3
₱ 1,990
PHILIPS DVD Player
DVP 4050



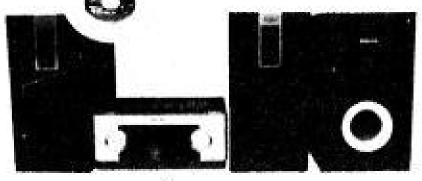
4
₱ 8,950
WOW Magic Sing
ED 9000

5
₱ 3,198
SHARP Washing Machine
ES470W / 4.7kg Single Tub

6
₱ 9,048
CONDURA Aircon
WCONDOO6EA 0.5 HP,
Manual



7
₱ 10,999
SONY Cybershot
DSC S700 7.2 Mega
Pixels, 3x Zoom
2.4" LCD



8
₱ 5,990
PHILIPS DVD Micro
Component /
MCD-139B

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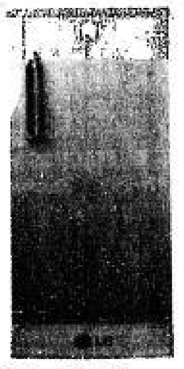
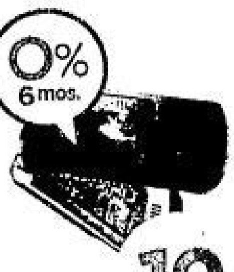
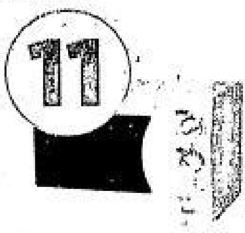
Subject to bank terms and conditions.



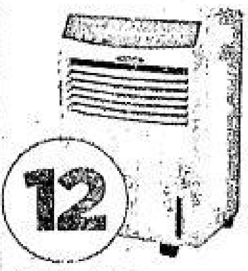
9
₱ 9,998
LG U171CLS
Refrigerator
/ 6 cu ft



0% 6 mos.
10
₱ 14,500
MOTOROLA V3XX
1.3 Mega Pixels
Camera, MP3, SMS,
MMS, VGA Call
Camera

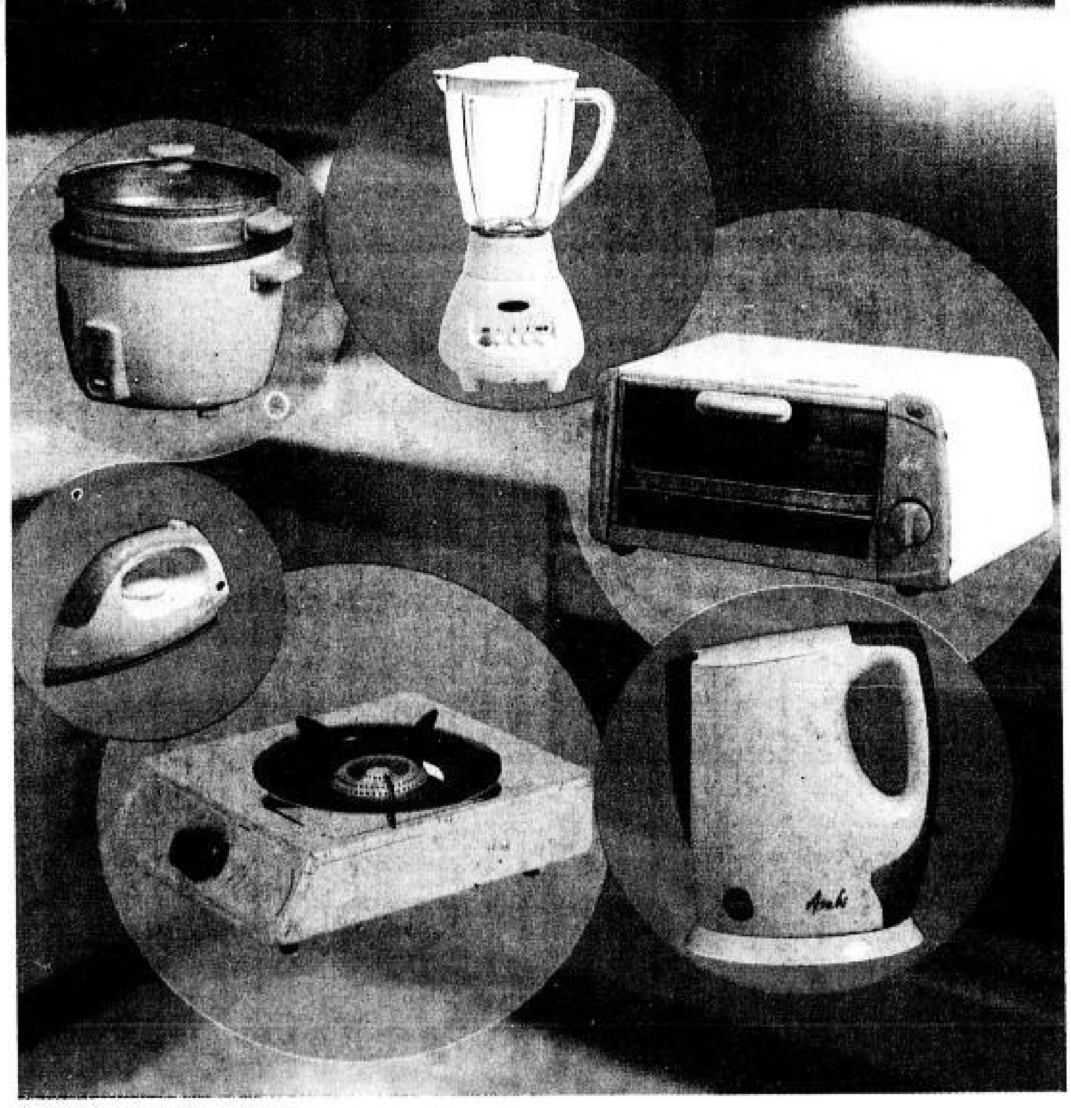


11
₱ 2,368
FUJIDENZO SM-18
S/W 0.7 CF /
MANUAL

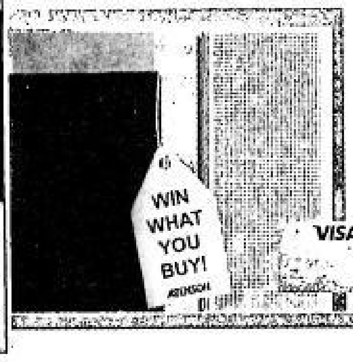


12
₱ 3,498
DOWELL Air Cooler
ARC-90

Asahi
Experience Quality. Experience Asahi.
Masaya ang Pasko...
Kung Asahi ang Regalo!



Here are the 15 Lucky Visa Cardholders who won back what they spent



FIRST RAFFLE DRAW
(August 24, 2007)

ABENSON WINNERS
1. Ester Losantes
HSBC Visa Cardholder
2. Eraño S. Bunluc
Citibank Visa cardholder
3. Rowena Riparip
Unionbank Visa Cardholder

ELECTROWORLD WINNERS
1. Jennifer Trinidad
Standard Chartered Visa cardholder
2. Charito M. Isidro
Citibank Visa Cardholder

SECOND RAFFLE DRAW
(September 11, 2007)

ABENSON WINNERS
1. Joy P. Agra
Citibank Visa cardholder
2. Yolanda Gavanza
Citibank Visa Cardholder
3. Josephine Regalado
AIG Visa Cardholder

ELECTROWORLD WINNERS
1. Ladie Sampang
HSBC Visa Cardholder
2. Victor Salas
Citibank Visa Cardholder

THIRD RAFFLE DRAW
(October 9, 2007)

ABENSON WINNERS
1. Yolanda Clemente
Standard Chartered Visa Cardholder
2. Hermel Elayda
AIG Visa Cardholder
3. Marilyn Gapol
HSBC Visa Cardholder

ELECTROWORLD WINNERS
1. Lourdes O. Daez
Citibank Visa Cardholder
2. Allanzo Tizon
AIG Visa Cardholder

VISA
All it takes.

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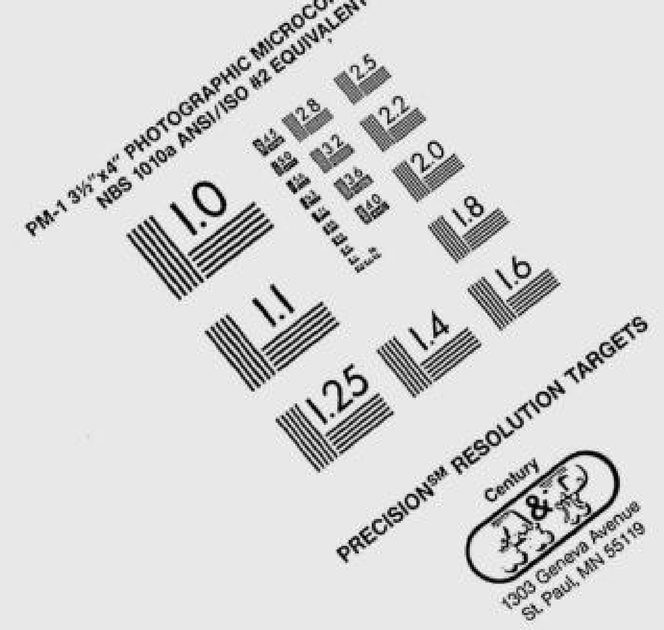
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3560 Series of 2007


PM-1 3½"x4" PHOTOGRAPHIC MICROCOPY TARGET
NBS 1010a ANSI/ISO #2 EQUIVALENT
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2.8
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3.6
4.0
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5.0
PRECISION℠ RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119

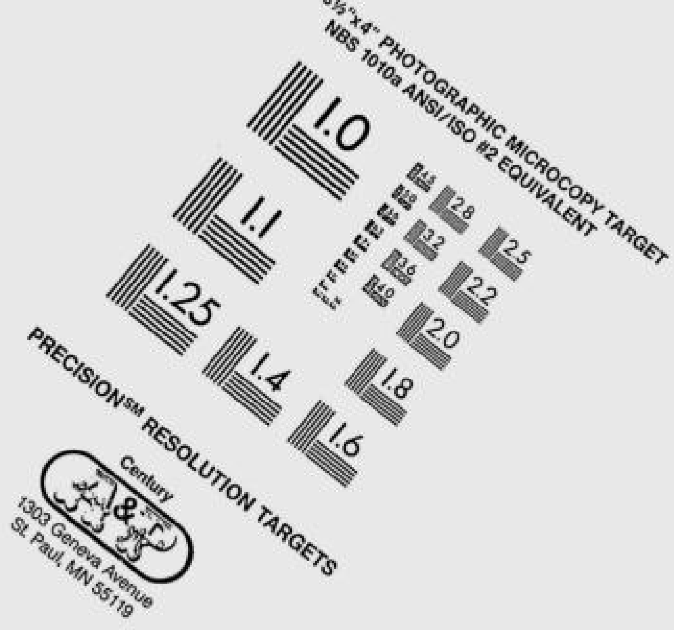
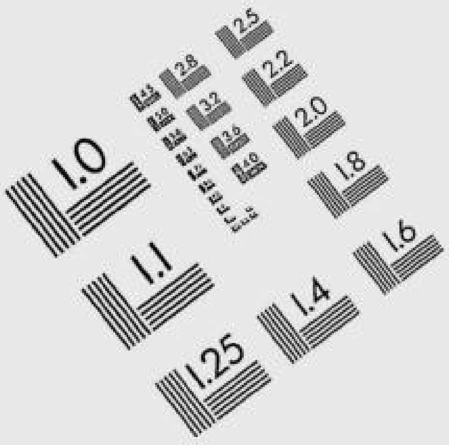
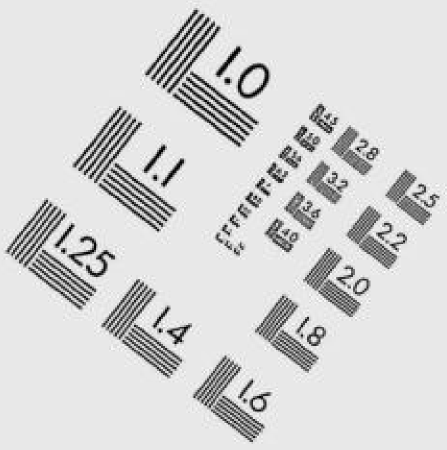
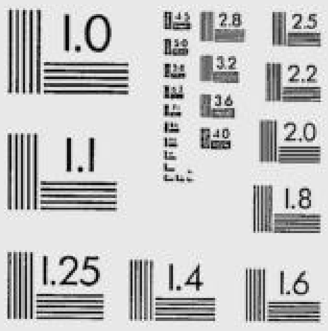

PM-1 3½"x4" PHOTOGRAPHIC MICROCOPY TARGET
NBS 1010a ANSI/ISO #2 EQUIVALENT
PRECISION℠ RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119

IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



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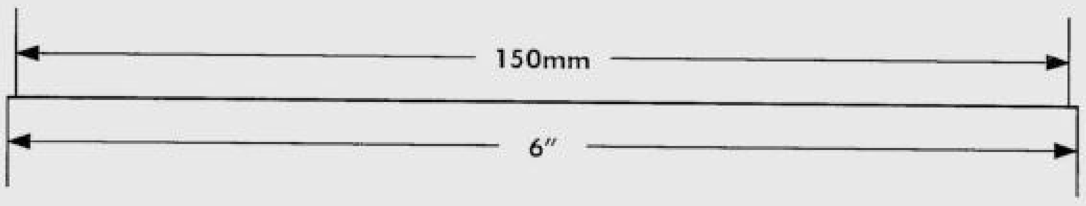

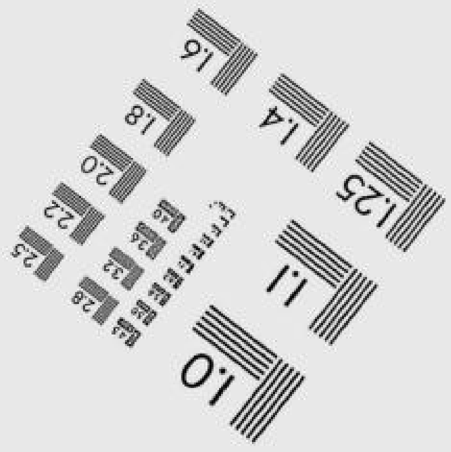

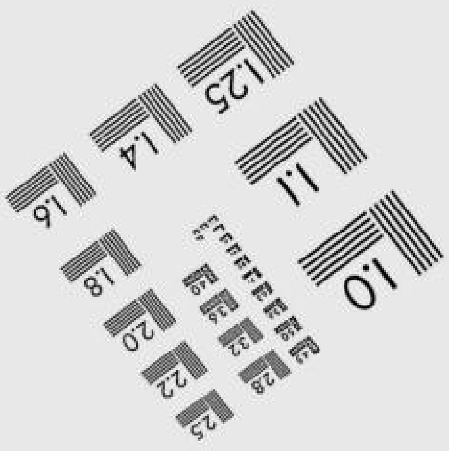

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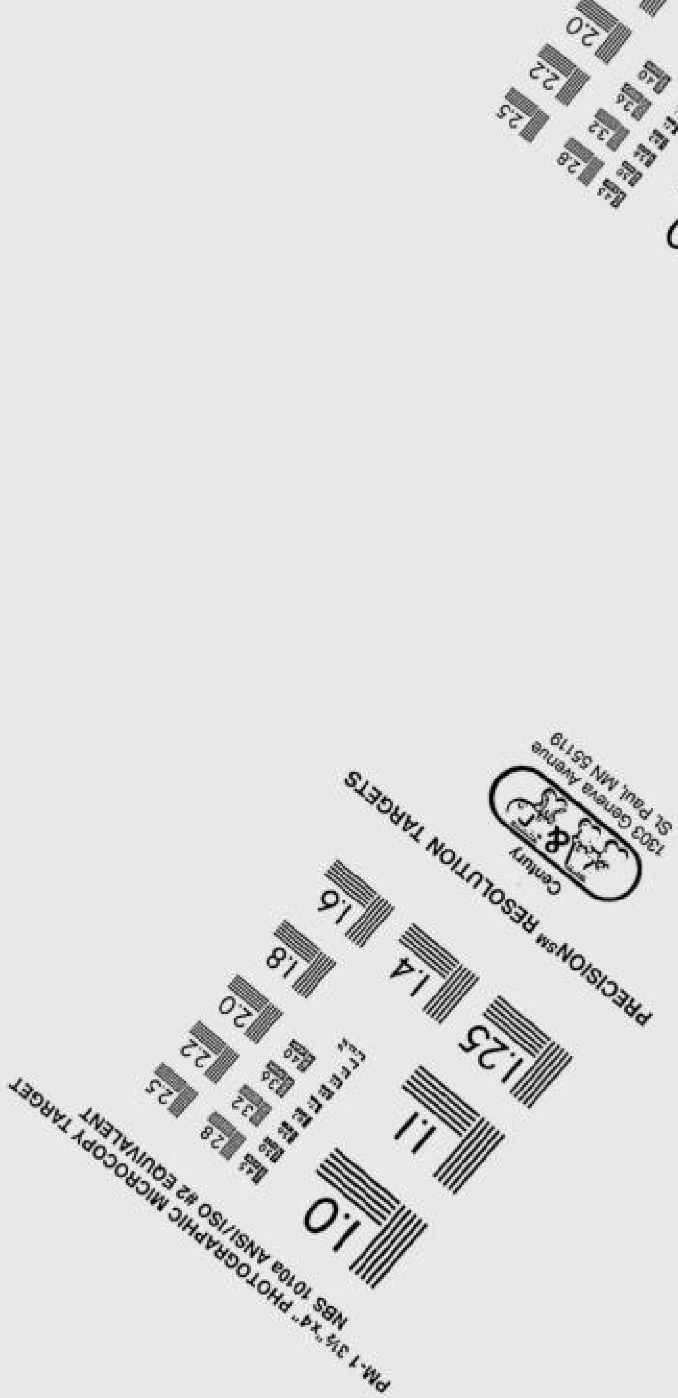

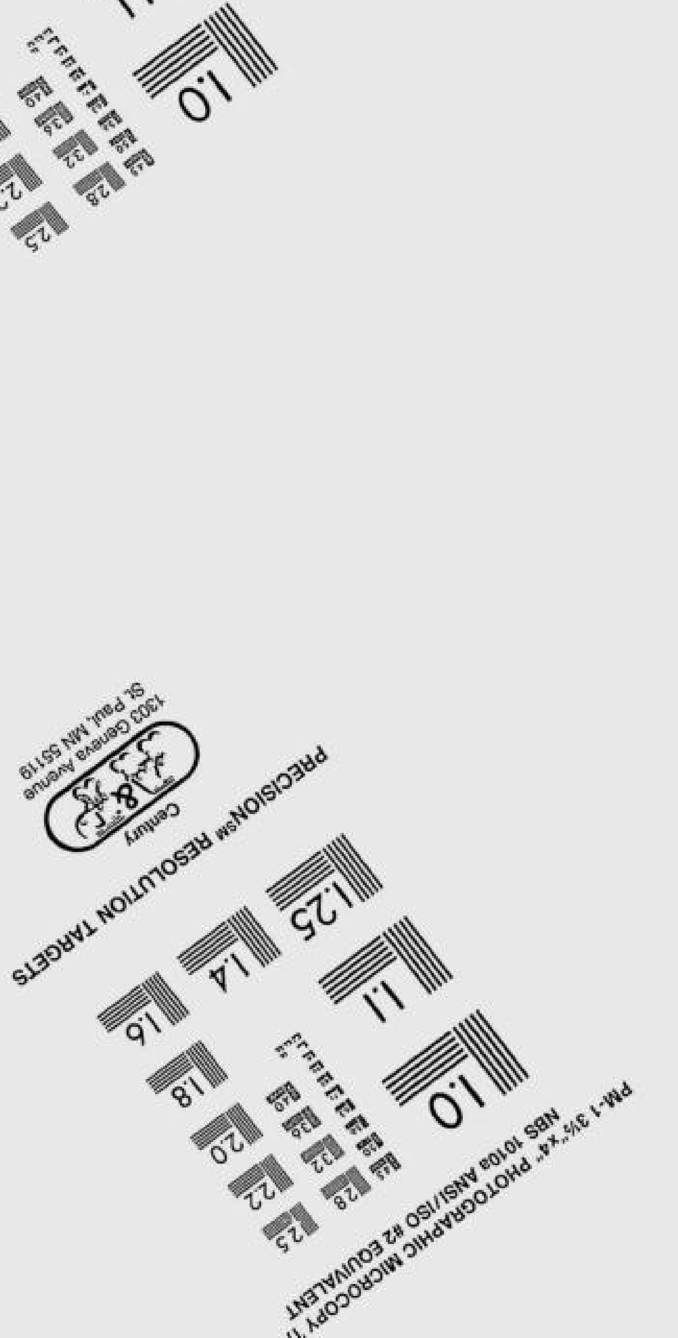

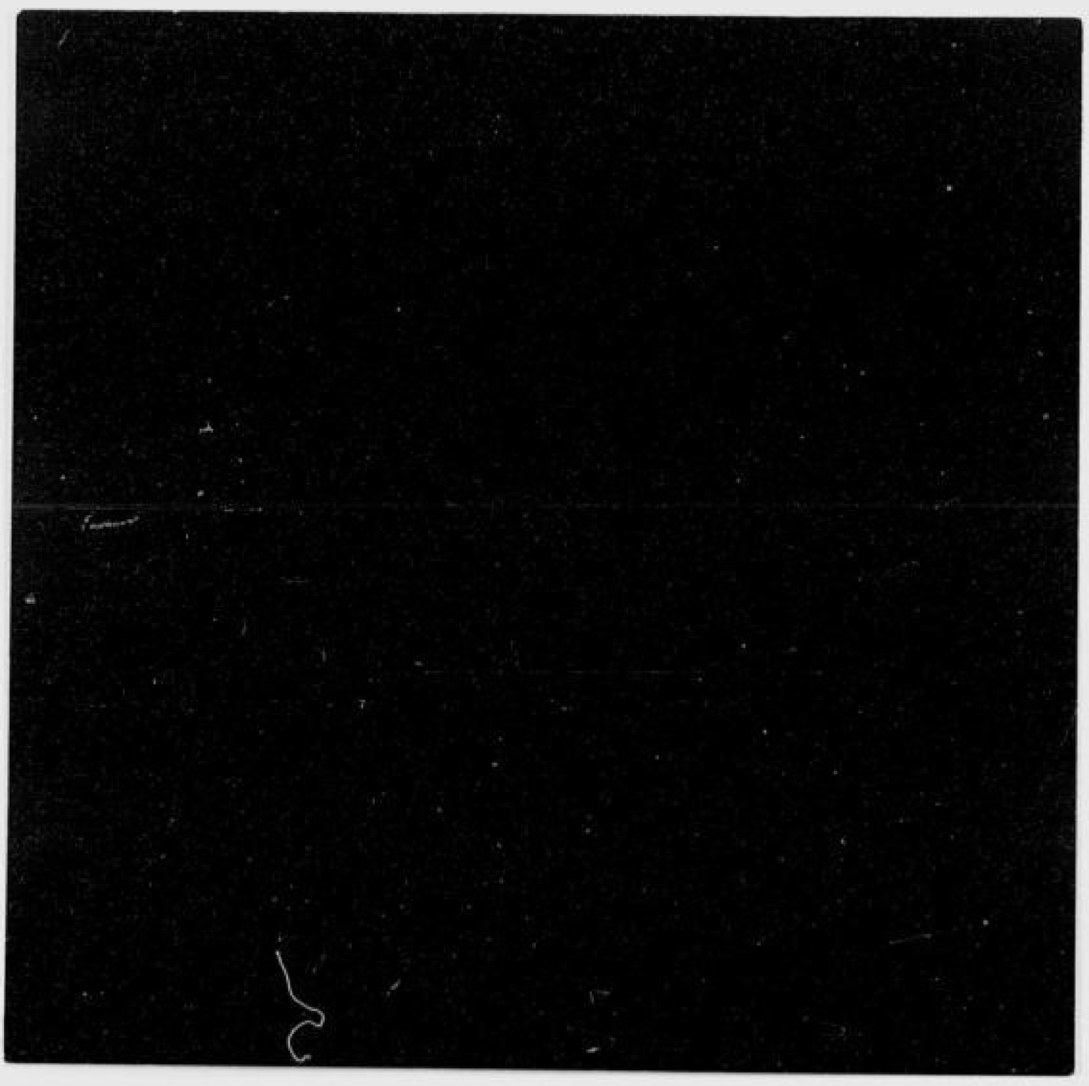

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2007

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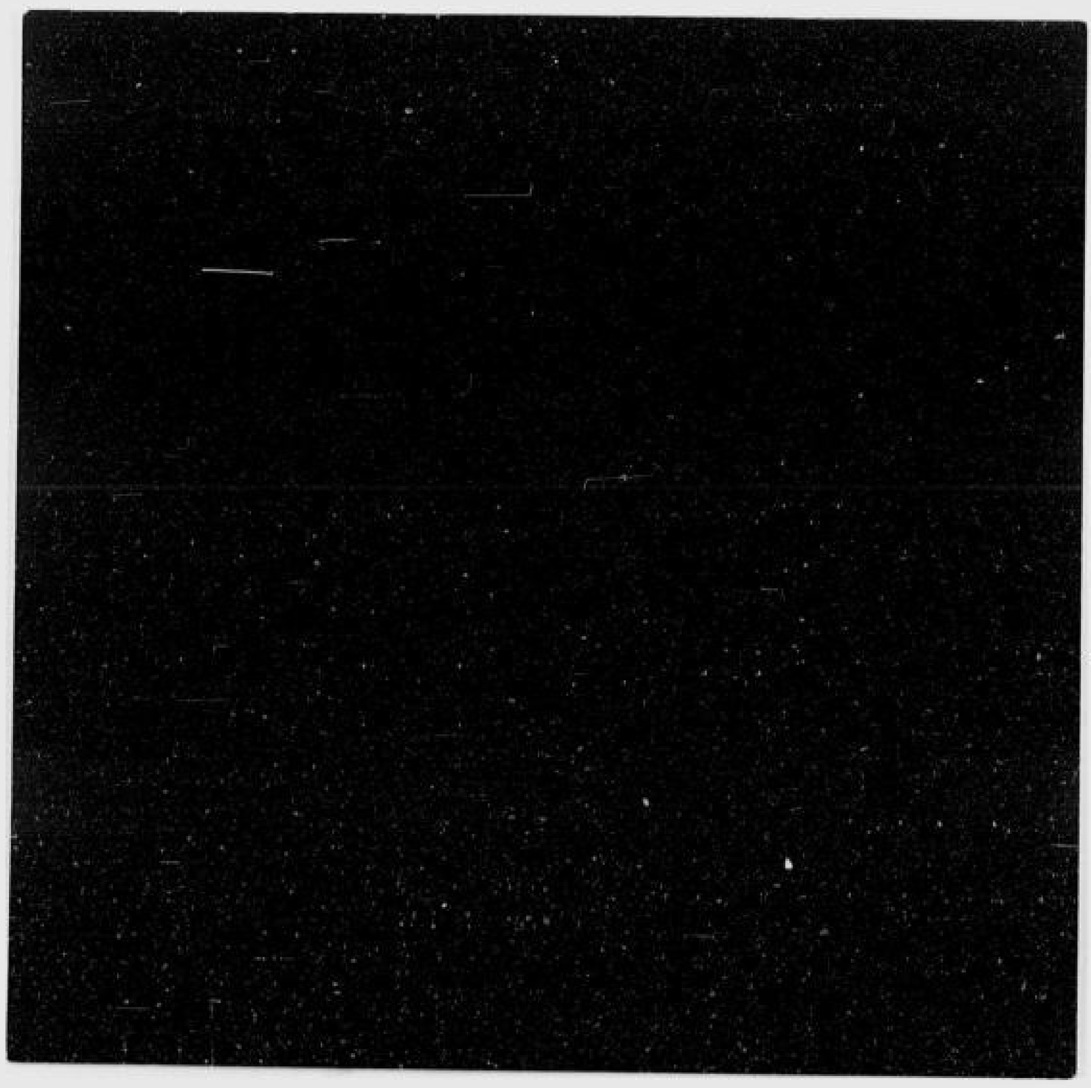
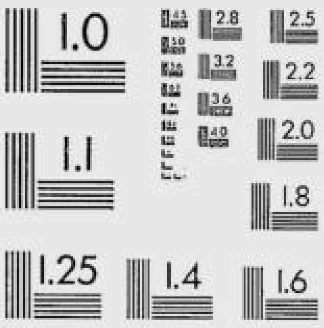


PM-1 3½"x4" PHOTOGRAPHIC MICROCOPY TARGET
NBS 1010a ANSI/ISO #2 EQUIVALENT

PRECISIONSM RESOLUTION TARGETS

Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119

IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)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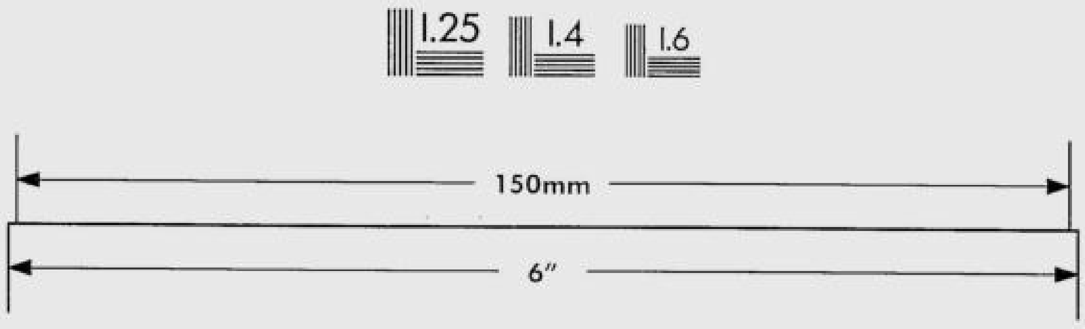
4.0



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